Why Government Matters

Read how people protect what matters and share the work of government.

2.C.1.2 "Explain and describe how a free people form a government to better protect their lives, property, and freedoms, and how the Constitution of the United States of America outlines the structure of our nation's three branches of government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what people want a government to protect. Circle Congress, the president, and courts, then number their three jobs 1, 2, and 3.

Working Together, Sharing Jobs

1. People in the United States are free to choose leaders through elections. They form a government so they can work together to protect lives, property, and freedoms. Laws can help keep people safe and protect what belongs to them.

2. Imagine someone takes a bike from a yard. A law against stealing helps protect that bike. Laws also protect people's right to speak. The people choose leaders to help make and carry out laws, but leaders must follow rules too.

3. The U.S. Constitution sets up three branches of our national government. Congress is the branch that makes laws. The president leads the branch that carries out laws. Courts make up the branch that decides what laws mean and if laws follow the Constitution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do free people form a government? Name two things they want it to protect.

2. How does the bike example show one way a law can protect property?

3. How does the Constitution divide the work of laws among Congress, the president, and courts?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine people want a new law to help keep drinking water clean. In three sentences, explain why they might want it and how Congress, the president, and courts would each do their jobs.

ANSWER KEY

Why Government Matters

GRADE 2 · 2.C.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what people want a government to protect. Circle Congress, the president, and courts, then number their three jobs 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do free people form a government? Name two things they want it to protect.	**People form a government to work together to protect their lives and freedoms. Property is also a correct example.**
2	How does the bike example show one way a law can protect property?	**A law against stealing helps protect a bike that belongs to someone.**
3	How does the Constitution divide the work of laws among Congress, the president, and courts?	**Congress makes laws, the president carries them out, and courts decide what laws mean and if they follow the Constitution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People may want a clean water law to help keep them safe. Congress could make the law, and the president could carry it out. Courts could decide what the law means and if it follows the Constitution.

Accept lives, property, or freedoms as things people want to protect. For the open task, accept answers that give a reason for the law and accurately describe all three government jobs.