# Where Taxes Go

How shared money helps a community

**2.C.1.9** "Describe the responsibility of paying taxes and explain how taxes are used to provide community services (e.g.,schools, fire and police protection, roads, parks and recreation)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the sentence that tells why people must pay taxes. Then circle four services that taxes help pay for.

### A Day in Nia's Town

1. Many adults pay taxes to the government. A tax is money people must pay under the law. The government collects this money and helps pay for services people share. Paying taxes is a responsibility, even if you do not use every service.

2. On the way to school, Nia sees a road crew filling holes. Taxes help pay for safe roads. At school, she checks out a book. Taxes also help pay for public schools, where children can learn together.

3. After school, Nia plays at a public park. Taxes help care for parks, too. When a fire starts in a home nearby, firefighters come to help. Taxes help pay for fire protection so the whole community can get help.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is paying taxes a responsibility?

2. How do taxes help Nia get to school and learn there?

3. How do taxes help people at the park and during a fire?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Name a public service not in the passage. In two sentences, explain why people must pay taxes and how those taxes can help provide that service.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 2 · 2.C.1.9

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells why people must pay taxes. Then circle four services that taxes help pay for. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why is paying taxes a responsibility? | **People must pay taxes under the law.** |
| 2 | How do taxes help Nia get to school and learn there? | **Taxes help pay for roads and public schools.** |
| 3 | How do taxes help people at the park and during a fire? | **Taxes help care for public parks and pay for fire protection.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People must pay taxes because the law says they must. Tax money can help pay for a public library where neighbors borrow books.

For the marking job, accept the sentence about paying under the law and circles around roads, public schools, parks, and fire protection. For Your Turn, accept another public service if the response explains both the duty to pay taxes and how tax money helps provide it.