Who Does What?

Read how Oklahoma's three branches of government share work.

3.C.1.1.C "Describe the structure of Oklahoma's government, including the role of major elected and appointed leaders in each of its three branches, including governor, state legislators, and court justices."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline the branch name and circle the leaders who work in that branch. Use your marks to help you compare their jobs.

A School Bus Safety Idea

1. Imagine a new rule about keeping school buses safe. Oklahoma's government has three branches that share power. The executive branch carries out state laws. The governor leads this branch and is elected by Oklahoma voters. The governor can sign a bill into law or veto it. The governor also appoints leaders of some state agencies, which help put laws to work.

2. The legislative branch makes state laws. It is called the Oklahoma Legislature and has two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Voters elect the people who serve in both parts. These state legislators can study a school bus safety idea, talk about it, and vote on a bill. A bill must pass both parts before it can go to the governor.

3. The judicial branch is made up of courts. Judges in this branch explain what laws mean and settle cases. On the Oklahoma Supreme Court, leaders called justices review some court decisions in cases that are not about crimes. The governor appoints these justices from a list chosen by a special group. Later, voters decide whether each justice stays in office. Courts do not write bills.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who leads the executive branch, and how do some other leaders in that branch get their jobs?

2. What are the two parts of the legislative branch, and how do state legislators get their jobs?

3. How are Oklahoma Supreme Court justices first chosen, and what do they do?

4. How is a justice's work with a law different from a state legislator's work with a law?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Oklahoma is considering a new law to keep state parks clean. Write four sentences explaining what state legislators, the governor, an appointed agency leader, and a Supreme Court justice could each do. Include when a court might need to act.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does What?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline the branch name and circle the leaders who work in that branch. Use your marks to help you compare their jobs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who leads the executive branch, and how do some other leaders in that branch get their jobs?	**The governor leads it and appoints leaders of some state agencies.**
2	What are the two parts of the legislative branch, and how do state legislators get their jobs?	**The House of Representatives and the Senate are its two parts. Voters elect state legislators.**
3	How are Oklahoma Supreme Court justices first chosen, and what do they do?	**The governor appoints them from a list chosen by a special group. They review some court decisions in cases that are not about crimes.**
4	How is a justice's work with a law different from a state legislator's work with a law?	**Legislators work on bills to make laws. Justices help decide what laws mean in court cases.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

State legislators could write and vote on a bill to keep state parks clean. The governor could sign the bill into law. An appointed agency leader could help workers carry out the new law in state parks. If a case about the law reaches the Oklahoma Supreme Court, a justice could help decide what it means.

Accept descriptions that correctly connect each leader to a branch and a role. For the open task, the justice should act in a court case, not write or enforce the law.