Who Pays for That?

Local and state services in Maya's community

3.C.1.1.D "Identify basic responsibilities of state and local governments (e.g., public safety, education, public works) and explain how taxes pay for services provided by local and state governments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two jobs of the town, circle two jobs of the state, and put a star beside one sentence that tells how taxes help pay for a service.

Maya's Trip to School

1. On Monday, Maya walks past a broken streetlight on her way to school. Her town government takes care of many neighborhood needs. Town workers repair streetlights and patch local roads. These jobs are called public works. The town also pays firefighters who answer calls when a fire starts. Repair crews and firefighters help keep people safe as they travel, learn, and live nearby.

2. At school, Maya sees books in the library and a teacher leading class. Her local school district runs the school. The state government also helps public schools by sending money to school districts and setting rules for what students learn. Farther from town, state workers fix a state highway. The town fixes local roads, but the state takes care of that highway.

3. How can these governments pay for all this work? People pay taxes, which are money collected by governments. Some taxes go to local governments, and some go to the state. Local taxes can help pay town firefighters and road crews. State taxes can help pay for state highways and public schools. When Maya sees a repaired road or new library books, she sees services that taxes help pay for.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which town job in the passage is public works? How does it help people?

2. Who fixes the state highway? What can help pay for that work?

3. How do the local school district and the state each help public schools?

4. Which government pays the firefighters in Maya's town? How can it get money to pay them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your neighborhood needs a new crosswalk on a local road. Write three sentences naming the government you would ask, explaining why this is its job, and telling how taxes could help pay for the work.

ANSWER KEY

Who Pays for That?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two jobs of the town, circle two jobs of the state, and put a star beside one sentence that tells how taxes help pay for a service. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which town job in the passage is public works? How does it help people?	**Repairing streetlights or patching local roads is public works. It helps keep people safe as they travel.**
2	Who fixes the state highway? What can help pay for that work?	**State workers fix the highway, and state taxes can help pay for it.**
3	How do the local school district and the state each help public schools?	**The local school district runs the school. The state sends money to school districts and sets rules for what students learn.**
4	Which government pays the firefighters in Maya's town? How can it get money to pay them?	**The town government pays the firefighters. Local taxes can help pay for them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask my town government for a new crosswalk on a local road. The town takes care of local roads, so it could add the crosswalk to help people cross safely. Local taxes could pay workers to paint the crosswalk.

For the marking job, accept any two town jobs and any two state jobs stated in the passage. Accept a starred sentence that connects taxes to a named service.