Who Makes It Happen?

Read how people, leaders, and taxes shape government.

3.C.1.1 "Read and describe the principle of a constitutional republic as government by the people. Explain how representatives of the people make and carry out laws in our communities, state, and nation..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two phrases from Oklahoma's preamble, circle the leaders who make laws, and number the three services in the sentence that begins "State and local governments provide."

Maya Follows a Law

1. At a town meeting, Maya asks why people get a say in government. In a constitutional republic, people choose leaders to speak for them. The United States Constitution and the Oklahoma Constitution are written plans for national and state government. Oklahoma's plan begins with "Invoking the guidance of Almighty God" and later says "we, the people of the State of Oklahoma." Those words show that people hold power and seek spiritual guidance.

2. Maya follows a bill about safer school bus stops. Oklahoma's elected state legislators write and vote on state laws. The elected governor leads the executive branch, which carries out state laws. The governor appoints justices to the state Supreme Court. These justices serve in the judicial branch and decide what laws mean in court cases. Voters later decide whether the justices stay in office.

3. Maya also learns that elected city council members can make local rules. City workers carry out those rules. In Washington, elected members of Congress make national laws, and the president leads the branch that carries them out. State and local governments provide schools, road repairs, and public safety. Taxes are money people pay to help fund these services, including safer streets near Maya's school.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the two quoted parts of Oklahoma's preamble show who has power and what guidance they seek?

2. How do state legislators, the governor, and justices have different jobs with a state law?

3. What does each constitution plan, and who makes laws at the national and local levels?

4. Why might taxes help make the streets near Maya's school safer? Use one service from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your neighborhood needs a safer crosswalk near a school. Write three sentences explaining which level of government could help, what an elected leader could do, and how taxes could help.

ANSWER KEY

Who Makes It Happen?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two phrases from Oklahoma's preamble, circle the leaders who make laws, and number the three services in the sentence that begins "State and local governments provide." Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the two quoted parts of Oklahoma's preamble show who has power and what guidance they seek?	**"We, the people" shows that the people hold power. "Invoking the guidance of Almighty God" shows that they seek spiritual guidance.**
2	How do state legislators, the governor, and justices have different jobs with a state law?	**State legislators write and vote on laws. The governor leads the branch that carries them out. Justices decide what laws mean in court cases.**
3	What does each constitution plan, and who makes laws at the national and local levels?	**The United States Constitution is a plan for national government, and the Oklahoma Constitution is a plan for state government. Members of Congress make national laws, and city council members can make local rules.**
4	Why might taxes help make the streets near Maya's school safer? Use one service from the passage.	**Taxes help pay for road repairs, which can make streets near the school safer.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My city government could help with the crosswalk near school. Elected city council members could make a local rule to slow cars near the school. Local taxes could pay city workers to paint the crosswalk.

Accept other accurate examples of state or local services funded by taxes. For the open task, look for three sentences connecting a level of government, an elected leader's action, and a use of taxes.