Who Decides Here?

How governments and neighbors solve problems

3.P.2.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems, and their responsibilities as citizens. Describe civic virtues and democratic principles such as equality, fairness..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action taken by each government: town, state, and Tribal. Circle two ways people take part, and put a star by a sentence that shows fairness or respect.

After the Rain

1. After a week of rain, a town park has deep puddles near its play area. Neighbors tell the town council that children need a safe place to play. Council members were chosen by town voters. They listen at a public meeting, then vote on a rule to keep everyone off the muddy field until it dries. The rule protects the grass and keeps people from slipping.

2. The same rain leaves a large hole in a state road outside town. State lawmakers, who are elected by voters across the state, make laws about roads and road safety. A state road crew follows those laws when it repairs the road. Drivers can report the hole to state workers. Reporting a danger helps others, even when the driver will not use that road again.

3. Nearby, a Tribal nation cares for a walking path in its community. Its Tribal government makes decisions for that nation. The way leaders are chosen can differ among Tribal nations. At a meeting, members ask leaders to add a sign where the path floods. Each speaker gets a fair turn. Leaders listen to different ideas before deciding. Respecting their decision and speaking up kindly both help people take part in government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the town council's rule help people and the park?

2. Which government handles the hole in the state road? How do its workers help?

3. How does reporting the hole show care for other people?

4. How do Tribal members and leaders each take part in the path decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a busy town street near a school needs a safer crossing. Write three sentences naming who should hear the concern, how neighbors can take part fairly, and how a decision could help people.

ANSWER KEY

Who Decides Here?

GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action taken by each government: town, state, and Tribal. Circle two ways people take part, and put a star by a sentence that shows fairness or respect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the town council's rule help people and the park?	**It keeps people from slipping and protects the grass while the field dries.**
2	Which government handles the hole in the state road? How do its workers help?	**The state government handles it. A state road crew repairs the road.**
3	How does reporting the hole show care for other people?	**It alerts state workers to a danger so the road can be repaired for others.**
4	How do Tribal members and leaders each take part in the path decision?	**Members ask for a sign and share ideas. Leaders listen to the ideas before deciding.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors should bring the concern to the town council because the crossing is on a town street. At a public meeting, speakers can take turns so everyone has a fair chance to share an idea. The council could decide to add a marked crossing so people know where to cross safely.

For the marking job, accept actions by town council members, state lawmakers or road workers, and Tribal leaders. For Your Turn, accept a different reasonable town decision if the response explains fair participation and how the decision helps people.