

Who Handles What

Read how local, state, and national governments have different jobs.

3.7.A “describe the basic structure of government in the local community, state, and nation;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every name of a leader or government group. Write L, S, or N beside each one to show whether it belongs to local, state, or national government.

Three Levels, Different Jobs

- ① Government helps people make decisions and provide services. In a local community, people may elect a mayor and city council, or other local leaders. These leaders make local rules, plan spending, and support services such as parks, libraries, roads, and fire protection. A school board is another local group. It makes decisions about public schools in its district.
- ② State government serves everyone in one state. Voters elect a governor to lead the executive branch. The state legislature, made up of elected lawmakers, writes and votes on state laws. State courts decide cases about those laws. State government handles jobs that reach across many communities, including state highways, state parks, and statewide rules for schools.
- ③ The national government serves the whole United States. People elect a president to lead the executive branch. They also elect members of Congress, which makes national laws. Federal courts decide cases about national laws and the Constitution. The national government deals with issues that affect the country, such as national defense, money, and relationships with other countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which local group makes decisions about public schools in its district?

2 Who leads the executive branch in state government, and what does the state legislature do?

3 How do Congress and federal courts have different jobs?

4 Which level of government handles state highways? Why does that job fit this level?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use the three panels to show local, state, and national government. In each panel, draw one leader or group from that level, label it, and write one short sentence telling a job that level does.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every name of a leader or government group. Write L, S, or N beside each one to show whether it belongs to local, state, or national government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which local group makes decisions about public schools in its district?	The school board.
2	Who leads the executive branch in state government, and what does the state legislature do?	The governor leads the executive branch. The state legislature writes and votes on state laws.
3	How do Congress and federal courts have different jobs?	Congress makes national laws. Federal courts decide cases about national laws and the Constitution.
4	Which level of government handles state highways? Why does that job fit this level?	State government handles state highways because highways can reach across many communities in one state.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Local panel: Draw a school board meeting and label it School Board. The school board makes decisions about public schools. State panel: Draw the governor and label the picture Governor. State government manages state parks. National panel: Draw Congress meeting and label it Congress. Congress makes national laws.

Accept accurate labels and jobs from the passage. For the local panel, accept another accurate local leader or group that serves the student's community.