

Three Levels, Many Jobs

Read how local, state, and national governments serve people.

3.7 "Government. The student understands the basic structure and functions of various levels of government. The student is expected to: describe the basic structure of government in the local community, state, and nation; identify local, state..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every government service. Write L, S, or N beside each service to show whether local, state, or national government provides it.

Government at Work

- ① In a community, local government handles needs close to home. A city may have a mayor and city council. A county may have commissioners. Residents usually vote to choose these local officials. Local government can collect trash, care for parks, run libraries, and help police and firefighters protect people. These leaders listen to community problems and make local rules.
- ② State government serves everyone in a state. Its elected governor leads the executive branch, which carries out state laws. Elected state lawmakers meet in a legislature to make laws. State courts decide cases about laws. State government may maintain highways, support public schools, issue driver licenses, and organize help during emergencies. People who can vote choose the governor and lawmakers.
- ③ National government serves the whole United States. The President leads the executive branch. Congress, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives, makes national laws. Federal courts decide cases about national laws. Voters take part in choosing the President and members of Congress. The national government provides national defense, prints money, delivers mail, and works with other countries. Each level has jobs that help people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two kinds of local officials. How are local officials usually chosen?

2 What are two services local government can provide?

3 What are the three main parts of state government described in the passage? Name one service state government may provide.

4 Which group makes national laws? Name one national service, and tell how voters take part in choosing national leaders.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make a help plan for three problems. Complete one row for local, state, and national government. For each row, write a problem that level could handle, name an official or government part that could help, and tell the service or action.

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	PROBLEM	OFFICIAL OR GOVERNMENT PART	SERVICE OR ACTION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every government service. Write L, S, or N beside each service to show whether local, state, or national government provides it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two kinds of local officials. How are local officials usually chosen?	A mayor, city council members, or county commissioners are local officials. Residents usually vote to choose them.
2	What are two services local government can provide?	Answers may include collecting trash, caring for parks, running libraries, or helping police and firefighters protect people.
3	What are the three main parts of state government described in the passage? Name one service state government may provide.	The governor leads the executive branch, lawmakers in the legislature make laws, and state courts decide cases. State services may include maintaining highways, supporting public schools, issuing driver licenses, or organizing emergency help.
4	Which group makes national laws? Name one national service, and tell how voters take part in choosing national leaders.	Congress makes national laws. National services include defense, printing money, delivering mail, or working with other countries. Voters take part in choosing the President and members of Congress.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	PROBLEM	OFFICIAL OR GOVERNMENT PART	SERVICE OR ACTION
Local	A neighborhood park needs its trash picked up.	City council	It can arrange trash collection in the park.
State	A state highway needs repair.	Governor's executive branch	It can maintain the highway.
National	A family needs to mail a letter across the country.	National government	It can deliver the mail.

Accept equivalent local, state, and national examples that match the passage. For the help plan, accept reasonable problems and actions when the government level is appropriate.