

Government at Work

Read how different levels of government serve people.

3.4.c “identifying and explaining the government;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each government level and underline words that tell a job it does, so you can explain how governments help people.

People Working Together

- ① A government is a group of people who make choices for a community. Communities can be towns, cities, states, or the whole country. Government leaders help people live together safely and fairly. They make laws, or rules everyone must follow. Laws can protect people, property, and places we share. They also help solve problems that affect many neighbors.
- ② In a town or city, local government is closest to the people who live there. A mayor may lead the city government, and council members help make decisions. They may decide where to repair a street or how to keep a park safe. Police officers and firefighters work for local government to protect people and respond when help is needed.
- ③ State government serves everyone in one state. It can make rules for state roads and public schools. The national, or federal, government serves the entire United States. It handles jobs that affect the whole country, such as printing money and protecting the nation. Each level has different jobs, yet all governments work to meet people's needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is a government, and what is one reason a community has one?

2 Name two jobs of a local government from the passage.

3 How is state government different from federal government? Give one job for each.

4 Why does the passage say that different levels of government are needed?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about one problem in your community. Name the level of government that could help, and explain two actions it could take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each government level and underline words that tell a job it does, so you can explain how governments help people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is a government, and what is one reason a community has one?	A government is a group of people who make choices for a community. It helps people live together safely and fairly, make laws, or solve shared problems.
2	Name two jobs of a local government from the passage.	Answers include repairing streets, keeping parks safe, protecting people, and responding when help is needed.
3	How is state government different from federal government? Give one job for each.	State government serves one state and can make rules for state roads or public schools. Federal government serves the entire United States and can print money or protect the nation.
4	Why does the passage say that different levels of government are needed?	Each level has different jobs and serves a different-sized community, but all work to meet people's needs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our neighborhood needs a safer crosswalk near the library. The local government could have workers paint clear lines and add a crossing sign. These actions would help people cross the street safely.

Accept accurate explanations that connect local government with a town or city, state government with one state, or federal government with the whole country. For Part 3, accept reasonable community problems and two actions that fit the named level of government.