

Town Decisions

Read how local government serves a community.

3.5.c “identifying and explaining the government;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words that name the local government, and underline three actions it takes to serve the community.

Maple Grove's Town Council

- ① Government is a group of people who help a community work safely and fairly. In the town of Maple Grove, the town council is part of local government. Council members listen when people share needs. They make local laws, or rules, and decide how to use town money for parks, streets, and other town services.
- ② In Maple Grove, adults who are registered voters choose council members in an election. This gives people a way to choose leaders. The council cannot make every decision alone. It hears public comments, follows the state and national constitutions, and uses taxes to pay for services. Services include fixing roads, keeping a fire department ready, and caring for public parks.
- ③ One spring, families asked the council for a safer crossing near Maple Grove School. The council studied the problem and voted to add a crosswalk and a crossing guard. Town workers painted the crosswalk, and the town paid the guard. This shows how local government can respond to a community need by making decisions and providing a service.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What group is part of Maple Grove's local government?

2 What are local laws, according to the passage?

3 How does an election help people in Maple Grove?

4 How did the town council respond to the need for a safer school crossing?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one problem a town could solve. Write two sentences explaining what the local government could do and how its action would help the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the words that name the local government, and underline three actions it takes to serve the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What group is part of Maple Grove's local government?	The town council.
2	What are local laws, according to the passage?	They are rules made by the local government.
3	How does an election help people in Maple Grove?	An election gives people a way to choose council members, or leaders.
4	How did the town council respond to the need for a safer school crossing?	It studied the problem, voted to add a crosswalk and crossing guard, and had the crosswalk painted and the guard paid.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town council could add lights near the library because the sidewalk is dark at night. This local government action would help people walk there safely.

Accept any correctly identified government action or service stated in the passage. For Your Turn, accept a reasonable town problem, a specific local government action, and a clear explanation of how the action helps.