

Government at Work

Read how different levels of government serve people.

3.8.c “identifying and explaining the government;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three jobs government does, then circle the words *local*, *state*, and *federal* to show the different levels of government.

Serving a Community

- ① Government is the group of people and systems that make rules, provide services, and help solve problems for a community. People need government to keep order and protect rights. For example, a city government may send firefighters during an emergency, collect trash, and care for public parks. Citizens can share ideas with leaders and vote for many leaders.
- ② Local government serves a city, town, or county. It handles needs close to home, such as parks, police, and local roads. A mayor or other local leader helps carry out plans. A city council or county board listens to citizens, discusses choices, and votes on local laws. These leaders work together to decide how community money will be used.
- ③ State government serves everyone in one state. It makes state laws and provides services that reach across the state, including state parks and highways. National, or federal, government serves the whole country. Congress makes federal laws, and the president can sign or veto bills. Federal government also handles national defense and relationships with other countries. Each level has different jobs, but all serve people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Explain one reason people need government.

2 Which level of government handles needs close to home, such as parks and local roads?

3 What are two services or jobs of state government named in the passage?

4 What does Congress do, and what can the president do with a bill?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine trash is not being collected in your town. Write three sentences that name the level of government that should help, tell one action leaders could take, and explain how the action would serve people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three jobs government does, then circle the words *local*, *state*, and *federal* to show the different levels of government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain one reason people need government.	People need government to keep order, protect rights, provide services, or help solve community problems.
2	Which level of government handles needs close to home, such as parks and local roads?	Local government.
3	What are two services or jobs of state government named in the passage?	It makes state laws and provides services across the state, such as state parks and highways.
4	What does Congress do, and what can the president do with a bill?	Congress makes federal laws. The president can sign or veto bills.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The local government should help with trash that is not collected. A city council could make a plan to pay for more trash collection. This would keep streets clean and help people stay healthy.

Accept passage-based wording for the short answers. For Your Turn, accept a reasonable local-government action and a clear explanation of how it helps the community.