

Governments at Work

Read how governments serve people in different countries.

3.9.a “explaining the purpose of governments and understanding that other countries have governments similar to and different from that of the United States;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three phrases that tell what governments do, and circle one detail that shows how another country’s government is like or unlike the United States government.

Different Systems, Shared Jobs

- ① People form governments to help communities work together. Governments make and enforce laws, such as rules that protect people and property. They provide services, including schools, roads, police, and firefighters. Governments also help settle disagreements and protect rights. In the United States, people choose many leaders by voting. The national, state, and local governments each have jobs.
- ② Canada has a government with purposes much like those in the United States. It makes laws, provides services, and protects people’s rights. Canadians vote for members of Parliament. Usually, the leader of the political party with the most elected members becomes prime minister. Canada also has a king as head of state, represented in Canada by a governor general. This differs from the United States, which has a president.
- ③ Japan also has a government that makes laws and provides services. Japanese citizens elect members of the National Diet, Japan’s lawmaking body. The Diet chooses the prime minister. Japan has an emperor, but the emperor does not make government decisions. The United States has no emperor, and its president is both head of state and head of government. These governments have some similar purposes but different systems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two jobs that governments do for communities.

2 How do people choose many leaders in the United States?

3 What is one way Canada's government is similar to the United States government?

4 Explain one difference between the government of Japan and the government of the United States.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a country called Riverland. Write exactly three sentences that explain two jobs its government does and one way its system is like or unlike the United States government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three phrases that tell what governments do, and circle one detail that shows how another country's government is like or unlike the United States government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two jobs that governments do for communities.	Governments make and enforce laws, provide services, settle disagreements, and protect rights. Accept any two.
2	How do people choose many leaders in the United States?	They choose many leaders by voting.
3	What is one way Canada's government is similar to the United States government?	Both governments make laws, provide services, protect rights, and have people vote for leaders. Accept one.
4	Explain one difference between the government of Japan and the government of the United States.	Japan has an emperor and a prime minister chosen by the Diet, while the United States has no emperor and has a president. Accept one accurate difference.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Riverland, the government makes laws and funds schools. People vote for a council that chooses a prime minister. Like the United States, Riverland's people vote for leaders, but unlike the United States, it has a prime minister instead of a president.

Accept text-supported answers that identify government purposes and accurate similarities or differences. For the open task, accept plausible invented systems that include two government jobs, a clear comparison to the United States, and exactly three sentences.