

Three Levels, One Country

Read how local, state, and national governments are organized.

3.9.e "explaining how local, state, and national governments are organized."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells who serves or leads that level of government. Circle the names of leaders or groups that help organize government.

A Class Learns About Government

- ① On Monday, Maya's class visited city hall to learn about government close to home. Local government serves a city, town, or county. People in the community elect leaders, such as a mayor or council members. These leaders make local choices. They may help pay for parks, libraries, streets, police, and fire services for neighbors each day.
- ② State government serves everyone in one state. A governor leads the executive part of state government. State lawmakers meet in a legislature to make state laws. Courts decide whether laws are followed fairly. State government can support state parks, highways, and public schools. It also makes rules that apply across the state to many people.
- ③ National government serves the whole United States. People in every state elect representatives to Congress, which makes national laws. The president leads the executive part of national government. National courts handle questions about national laws. This level works on matters that involve the entire country, such as printing money, defending the nation, and working with other countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What places can local government serve?

2 Name the three parts or groups described in state government and tell what each does.

3 How is the area served by local government different from the area served by national government?

4 Which group makes national laws, and who leads the executive part of national government?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make a chart with one row for each level of government. In each row, name a leader or group from the passage and write one decision or job that fits that level.

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	LEADER OR GROUP	A FITTING JOB OR DECISION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells who serves or leads that level of government. Circle the names of leaders or groups that help organize government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What places can local government serve?	A city, town, or county.
2	Name the three parts or groups described in state government and tell what each does.	The governor leads the executive part. State lawmakers meet in a legislature to make state laws. Courts decide whether laws are followed fairly.
3	How is the area served by local government different from the area served by national government?	Local government serves a city, town, or county. National government serves the whole United States.
4	Which group makes national laws, and who leads the executive part of national government?	Congress makes national laws. The president leads the executive part of national government.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	LEADER OR GROUP	A FITTING JOB OR DECISION
Local	City council members	They decide whether the town needs a new park.
State	State lawmakers in a legislature	They make a rule that applies across the state.
National	Congress	It makes a law for the whole United States.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each level's area, leaders, groups, and responsibilities when they match the passage. For the chart, accept reasonable examples that fit the correct level of government and name an appropriate leader or group.