

Government at Work

Read how the United States government is structured and serves people.

3.9 "The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the basic structure of the United States government by explaining the purpose of governments and understanding that other countries have governments similar to and..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each branch name. Write N, S, or L beside the three sentences that explain what national, state, or local government does.

Rules, Leaders, and Levels

- ① People form governments to make laws, keep order, protect rights, and provide services. In the United States, people choose many leaders by voting. Other countries also have governments, but their systems can differ. Canada has a national government and provinces. In a monarchy, a king or queen may be part of the government. Every country uses rules and leaders in its own way.
- ② The Constitution is the nation's plan for government. It explains that the government has three branches, or parts, with different jobs. The legislative branch, Congress, makes laws. The executive branch, led by the President, carries out laws. The judicial branch includes courts that decide whether laws follow the Constitution. These separate jobs help keep one branch from having too much power.
- ③ Government is organized at national, state, and local levels. The national government handles issues for the whole country, such as making money and working with other countries. State governments make decisions for their states, including rules for state roads. Local governments serve communities. A city council may set rules for parks, while a school board makes decisions for its school district. Each level has leaders and jobs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two purposes of government named in the passage?

2 How can governments in different countries be alike and different? Use details from the passage.

3 How does the Constitution support the structure of the United States government?

4 Which level of government handles each job: making money, making rules for state roads, and setting rules for parks?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a problem that affects the whole country. Write three sentences telling how the legislative, executive, and judicial branches could each handle a law about that problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each branch name. Write N, S, or L beside the three sentences that explain what national, state, or local government does. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two purposes of government named in the passage?	Answers may include making laws, keeping order, protecting rights, and providing services.
2	How can governments in different countries be alike and different? Use details from the passage.	Countries all use rules and leaders, but their systems can differ. For example, Canada has provinces, and a monarchy may include a king or queen.
3	How does the Constitution support the structure of the United States government?	It is the nation's plan for government and explains that there are three branches with different jobs.
4	Which level of government handles each job: making money, making rules for state roads, and setting rules for parks?	Making money: national. State roads: state. Park rules: local.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress could make a law that requires safety checks for toys sold across the country. The executive branch could carry out the law by enforcing toy safety rules. Courts in the judicial branch could decide whether the law follows the Constitution.

Accept any reasonable countrywide problem and three accurate branch roles. The legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch carries out laws, and the judicial branch uses courts to decide whether laws follow the Constitution.