

Three Levels of Government

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



There are three different levels of government: local, **state** and **federal**. Each level of government has its own elected officials who have specific jobs to do. Adult American citizens have a voice in all three levels of government. Their voice is their vote.

Local government is the level that is closest to the community. People in the neighborhood elect a mayor and city council members. Town meetings allow the people to bring their concerns to their elected leaders. The mayor and city council members pass **laws**. The laws affect the city and the people who live there.

State government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for all the people within one state. The people of the state elect a governor and representatives who handle business for the state. Special state departments handle issues for the state. They protect the health and safety of state citizens.

The federal government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for the people in the United States. The people of the United States elect a president, senators, and representatives. These officials handle business that affects the whole country. The federal level of government is able to do some things the other levels cannot. It can print money. It can negotiate with other countries. It can declare war on another country.

Each level of government has specific officials and duties. The people entrust their power to their leaders. It is their responsibility to protect the interests and safety of the people.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What are the three levels of government?

2) How does the average person have a voice in government? _____

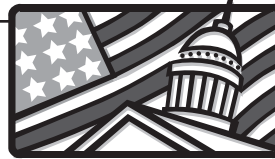
3) Which level of government has the ability to print money? _____

4) Which level of government has a governor?

5) Which level of government is closest to the community? _____

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Name: **Key**

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) What are the three levels of government?

local, state and federal

2) How does the average person have a voice in government? **with a vote**

3) Which level of government has the ability to print money? **the federal government**

4) Which level of government has a governor?

the state government

5) Which level of government is closest to the community? **the local government**