



Lesson 18.8: How Do Taxes Work?

Names _____

What Do Taxes Pay For?

People use all kinds of services, but not all of them are provided by our governments. Using the provided services cards, sort the services into those paid for by the public through taxes and those that are paid for privately by individual citizens.

Public Services: Taxes Pay For These	Private Services: Taxes Do Not Pay For These



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What Do Taxes Pay For? Sorting Cards

Cut out the various services listed below and sort them into the correct categories on the T-chart.

Police Department	Hair Salon	Roadways	Veterinarian
Courts	Restaurant	Fire Department	Clothing Store
Public Schools	Grocery Store	Dance Studio	Public Library



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Names _____ Answer Key _____

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Public Services: Taxes Pay For These	Private Services: Taxes Do Not Pay For These
<p>Police Department</p> <p>Roadways</p> <p>Court</p> <p>Fire Department</p> <p>Public Schools</p> <p>Public Library</p>	<p>Hair Salon</p> <p>Veterinarian</p> <p>Restaurant</p> <p>Clothing Store</p> <p>Grocery Store</p> <p>Dance Studio</p>



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Federalism: When local towns, states, and the federal government share power together

Federal government: The central government of a group of states; the U.S. federal government is in Washington, D.C.

State government: The central government of a state or group of towns; the N.H. state government is in Concord, N.H.

Local government: The government of a town or city



Name _____

Whose Responsibility?

In federalism, the federal, state, and local governments share power together. This means that they also share responsibility for providing government services to the people and paying for these services with tax money. Who should be responsible for what?

Important information:

1. All three levels collect taxes from people to pay for their responsibilities.
2. All three levels must be careful about how they spend their tax money because there is never enough to do all the things they want to do!
3. Government levels know that they must work together successfully to run the country and provide for the people.
4. Government levels also know that they need to balance responsibilities so that no one level is responsible for too much or too little.

Three perspectives: (circle your assigned perspective)

- **Federal government:** You are concerned about the whole country. There are 50 states and you must balance all their needs to provide for them.
- **State government:** You are concerned about your state. You want to get as much help from the federal government as you can, but you must make sure to balance all the needs of your towns and cities to provide for them.
- **Local government:** You are concerned about your town. You want to get as much help from the federal government and from the state government as you can in order to provide for your citizens.

Services the government must provide: Which ones should you pay for?

Schools for K – 12 grades	State parks	Parks and sports fields
Court system	Police and fire protection	Armed services/military
Road plowing and paving	Universities	Prisons
National parks	Trash pickup	Community library
Elections	Print money	Post office
Public transportation	Care for vulnerable populations	

Instructions:

Discuss with other members of your group what your level of government should be responsible for. Remember, you can be responsible alone or you can share responsibilities for services! How will you spend your tax money?





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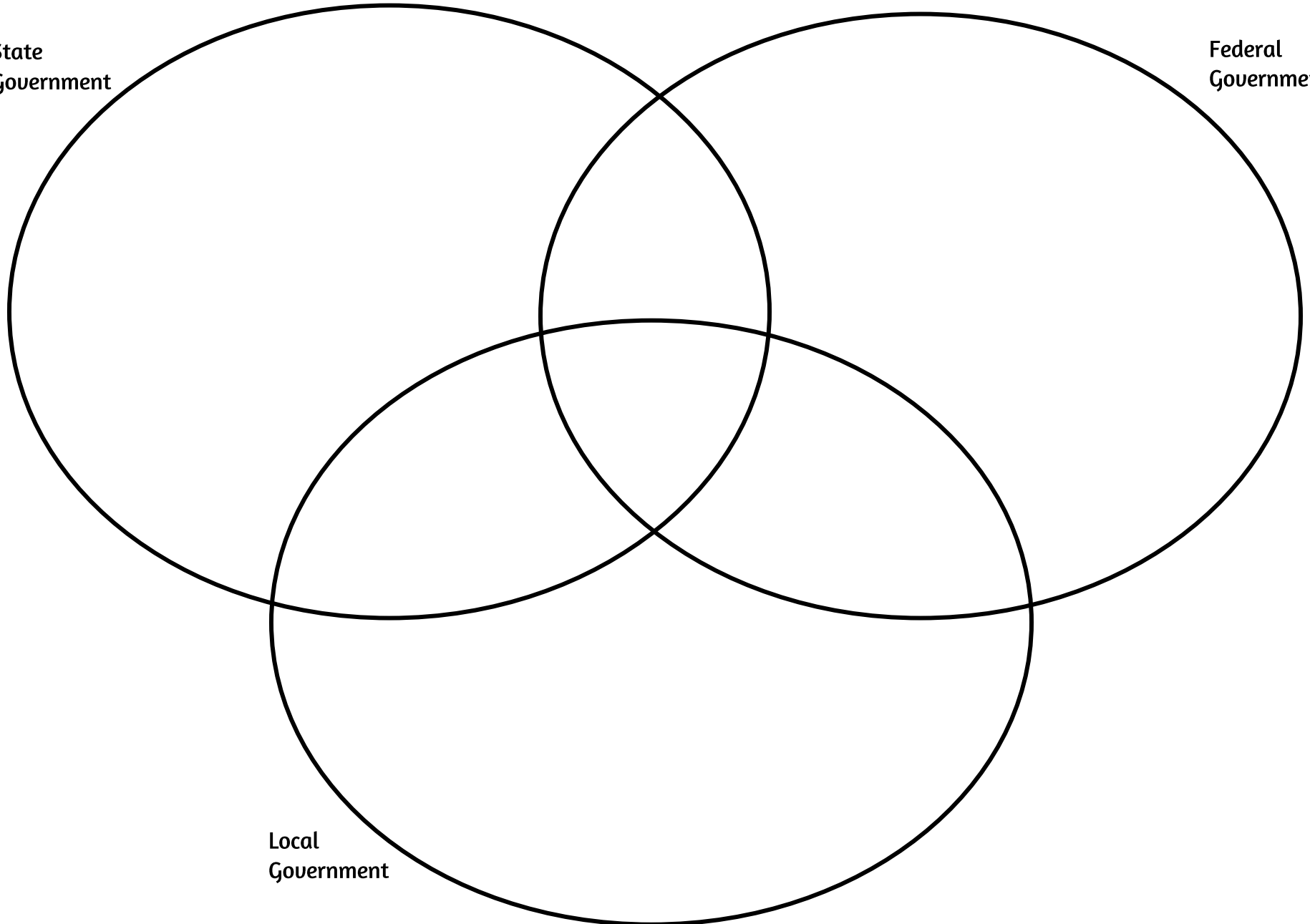
Triple Venn Diagram: Whose Responsibility?

Name _____

State
Government

Federal
Government

Local
Government

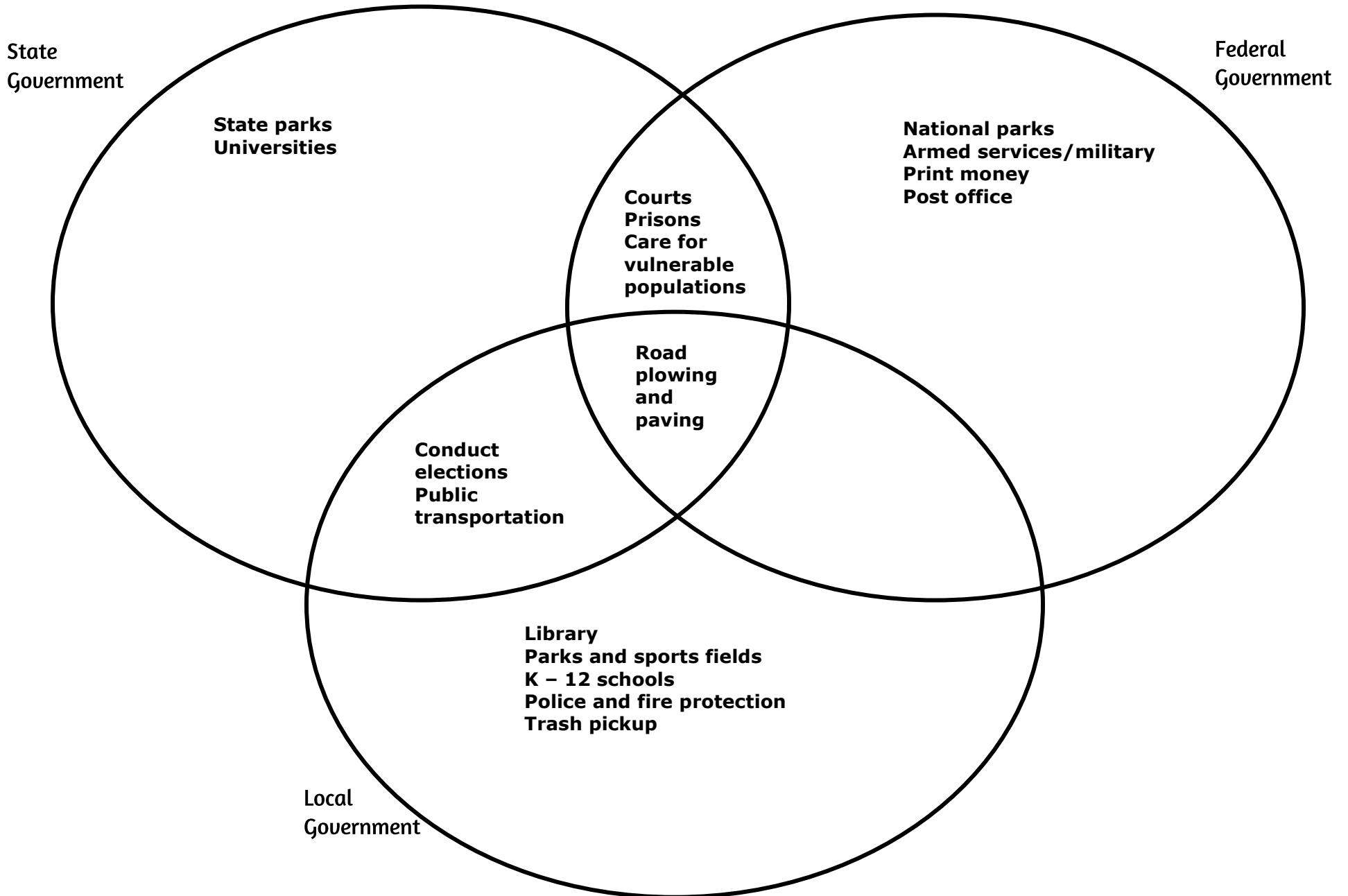




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Triple Venn Diagram: Whose Responsibility?

Name _____ Answer Key _____





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Name _____

I Think My Town Needs ...

My town or city needs: _____

Arguments in FAVOR of raising taxes to pay for this service	Arguments AGAINST raising taxes to pay for this service



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Name _____ Answer Key: Possible Responses _____

I Think My Town Needs ...

My town or city needs: _____ **To build an addition onto our school** _____

Arguments in FAVOR of raising taxes to pay for this service	Arguments AGAINST raising taxes to pay for this service
Our current school building is not big enough to fit all of the students	Our town population is not growing
Education needs have changed and the school building needs to be updated to keep up with these needs	Students have been learning in this school building for 50 years and it has been fine
It is important that children have a safe and modern space for learning	It is too expensive
It is less expensive than building a new school	An addition would take away space from parking, the playground, and sports fields



Name _____

No Taxation Without Representation

In the 1770s, the American colonists were citizens of Great Britain but had their own colonial governments. They had grown tired of being taxed by the British Parliament in England for goods such as glass, paper, and tea without being represented in Parliament and having a say over how those taxes were spent. "No Taxation Without Representation" became a rallying cry for the colonists as they built support for the Revolutionary War.

1. Why were the colonists so angry with King George? What does "no taxation without representation" mean?

2. Included in the phrase "no taxation without representation" is the idea that people *do* need to pay taxes. Why do people need to pay taxes?

3. Partially because of King George's actions, the Founding Fathers made sure to include both taxes and representation in the new governments at all levels. How do you have representation at each level? What do your taxes pay for at each level?

	How am I represented?	What do my taxes pay for?
Federal government		
State government		
Local government		



No Taxation Without Representation

In the 1770's, the American colonists were citizens of Great Britain, but had their own colonial governments. They had grown tired of being taxed by the British Parliament in England for goods such as glass, paper, and tea, and to fund England's wars without being represented at Parliament and having a say over how those taxes were spent. "No Taxation Without Representation" became a rallying cry for the colonists as they built support for the Revolutionary War.

- Why were the colonists so angry with King George? What does "no taxation without representation" mean?
It means that he was taking their money without listening to them about how the money should be spent. Their voices were not being heard in Parliament.
- Included in the phrase "no taxation without representation" is the idea that people do need to pay taxes. Why do people need to pay taxes?
People need to pay taxes to pay for services the government provides that people can't provide, like police protection or roads and bridges or the military.
- Partially because of King George's actions, the founding fathers made sure to include both taxes and representation in the United States governments at all levels. How do you have representation at each level? What do your taxes pay for at each level?

	How am I represented?	What do my taxes pay for?
Federal government	by Congress: Senate and House of Representatives	the court system printing money the military
State government	by my representatives in the legislature in Concord	state parks universities
Local government	by speaking at town meetings by my town council or select board	K – 12 schools local library police and fire protection



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Name _____ Answer Key: Possible Response _____

A Letter to My Government

Think about public and private services in your town and reflect what is paid for with taxes and what is not paid for with taxes. Choose either (1) a service taxes DO pay for that you think should be paid for privately or (2) a service taxes DO NOT pay for that you think they should. Consider services paid for by taxes like police department, roadways, libraries, or public schools and services paid for privately like veterinarian, grocery and clothing stores, and dance classes. Write a letter to your town government explaining your claim, giving some evidence to support your claim, and stating your reasons. Make your case!

Date: October 29, 2020

Dear Town of Concord,

I think that the government should make groceries free for everyone that lives in New Hampshire and raise taxes To pay for these groceries. Groceries are very expensive and there are a lot of people that do not have enough money to buy the food that they need. Everyone needs to eat to live and a lot of people don't eat enough healthy food. Maybe if grocery stores with healthy food were free then everyone would have the good food that their bodies need. This would be expensive, but people would also be saving a lot of money on buying groceries, so they would be able to pay the taxes instead.

Sincerely,

Sam Student



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Uncle Sam for a Day

The U.S. government collects trillions of dollars through taxes each year and the state of New Hampshire collects more than \$1 billion through taxes. How much an individual pays in taxes depends on factors such as where they live, how much money they earn, how expensive their house is, and what they buy. Governments then decide how to spend the money that is collected. If you were given the choice how to spend tax money, what would you choose to spend it on? Imagine you are the government and you have to choose how to spend the money. Be sure the percentages add up to 100%!

Government Service	Percentage to Spend	Why I Chose That Amount
Schools	%	
Libraries	%	
Parks	%	
Police Department	%	
Fire Department	%	
Road & Bridges Repairs & Plowing	%	
Military	%	
Job Training	%	

Total:

(should be 100%!)



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Government Service	Percentage to Spend	Why I Chose That Amount
Schools	30%	Schools are important to create good citizens who will be part of a strong workforce in the future.
Libraries	5%	Libraries add to the education of the community through reading, have fun programs for kids, and are a place for the community to come together.
Parks	15%	Parks are fun. It's important that we have places that people can go for fun and to exercise and where there is nature.
Police	15%	The police keep us safe.
Fire Departments	5%	The fire departments protect us and our houses if there is a fire.
Road & Bridges Repairs & Plowing	10%	Everyone needs safe roads to drive on. Everyone uses roads everyday to get to places like work and stores.
Military	15%	There are a lot of people in the military and it is really expensive. It is important to defend our country.
Job Training	5%	Some people need extra help to get jobs and helping them means they will be able to get a job and participate in the workforce.
Total:	100%	(should be 100%!)