

How State Government Works

Grade 4 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students distinguish the roles of governors, state legislatures, and state courts in state government. • Standards: D2.Civ.1.3-5, D2.Civ.4.3-5

Read each statement about state government. Decide whether the action is done by the governor, the state legislature, or the state courts. Write your answer on the line.

1. This person is the leader of the state government.
2. This group of elected people writes and votes on new state laws.
3. Judges in this part of state government decide if someone broke a state law.
4. The leader who signs a bill to make it become a state law.
5. This group meets in the state capital to debate and create new laws about schools and roads in the state.
6. When two people disagree about who owns a piece of land in the state, this branch settles the dispute.
7. This person can veto a bill passed by the state legislature if they think it is a bad idea.
8. If someone believes a new state law breaks the state constitution, this branch reviews the law and decides if it is allowed.
9. After the legislature passes a budget for the state, this person must approve it and then makes sure state agencies spend the money correctly.
10. The state legislature passed a law and the governor signed it, but a judge ruled it should not be enforced in a trial. Which branch reviews whether the law can be enforced in that case?

Answer Key — How State Government Works

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. governor (*The governor is the chief executive of the state.*)
2. state legislature (*The legislature is the lawmaking branch of state government.*)
3. state courts (*Courts interpret laws and decide legal cases.*)
4. governor (*The governor has the power to sign bills into law.*)
5. state legislature (*The legislature debates and creates laws on state matters.*)
6. state courts (*Courts resolve legal disputes between parties.*)
7. governor (*The governor has veto power over legislation.*)
8. state courts (*Courts have the power of judicial review to determine if laws are constitutional.*)
9. governor (*The governor approves the budget and oversees its execution by state agencies.*)
10. state courts (*Courts review whether laws can be enforced in specific cases.*)