If your heart, lungs, and brain did not work together, you could not function properly. The same is true of the three levels of government. If local, state, and federal government did not cooperate, life would be difficult.

Governments Work Together

As you read earlier in this chapter, most local units of government have their powers defined for them in charters written by the state legislatures. This outlines the duties and responsibilities of each level of government and ensures that all governmental bodies have the powers needed to do their jobs.

Under the U.S. federal system of government, the powers of each level of government are clearly defined and understood. At the top, the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. All levels of government must obey the Constitution. For example, no state or city can require public officials to do things that are prohibited by the U.S. Constitution. State constitutions set up rules that govern the people of each state.

Why It Matters
Write the term cooperation on the board. Ask students to write down the meaning of the word. Students might suggest that it means “sharing resources and responsibilities to accomplish a common goal.” Explain to students that although different levels of government have different powers, they must cooperate to serve the needs of the community. Tell students that their community governments need money from state and federal government to get projects done. Ask students to consider how their daily life would be affected if their communities did not receive money to maintain roads, parks, or other facilities.

Academic Vocabulary
Review with students the high-use academic term in this section.

Key Terms
Preteach the following terms:
- grants-in-aid federal funds given to state and local governments for specific projects (p. 241)
- block grants funds given by the federal government to state and local governments for broadly defined purposes (p. 241)

Vocabulary Activities: Chapter 9

Taking Notes

Working Together
- Federal, state, and local governments work together to build roads.
- City governments cooperate on common interests.

Serving the Public
- Federal government gives grants-in-aid and block grants to state and local governments.
- State and local governments assure citizens’ quality of life.

Competition
- For income, property, and sales taxes
- To attract trade and industry

How Governments Work Together

1. **Teach** Ask students the Reading Focus questions to teach this section.
2. **Apply** Ask students to create a list of the section’s illustrations and photos. As students read, have them note how each illustration or photo shows cooperation between different levels of government.
3. **Review** Create a master list of the section’s illustrations and photos on the chalkboard.

Ask volunteers to describe how each shows government cooperation.

4. **Practice/Homework** Have students create a chart with categories for government cooperation and correctly categorize each illustration in the appropriate section. Possible categories include education, construction, etc.
Building Roads Together

Though each level has its defined roles, many issues call for cooperation among local, state, and federal governments. A good example can be seen in the nation’s roads and highway systems. Today every state has a network of roads built with local, state, and federal funds.

In colonial days, building a road was a local project. If a town wanted a road, the townspeople built it. These early, primitive roads were cheap to build, and local governments could easily plan and pay for such roads. As the West opened up, the U.S. government did pay for the construction of some east-west roads. However, in general, road building remained a local responsibility.

In the late 1800s New Jersey became the first state to use state funds to help counties improve their local roads. Massachusetts went a step further in 1893 when it established a state highway commission to build a statewide highway system. Other states soon established state highway departments to build main roads.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was instrumental in the construction of the nation’s interstate highway system. He recognized the importance of highway building in 1919 when he was a soldier and took part in the U.S. Army’s first transcontinental motor convoy. The journey was a miserable two-month trip, slowed by poorly kept dirt roads and rickety old bridges. Then, during World War II, General Eisenhower saw the ease with which the German forces could travel through the countryside because of Germany’s highway system. In 1956, partly as a result of his wartime experiences, President Eisenhower signed legislation that funded the creation of the U.S. interstate highway system.

Today more than 46,000 miles of interstate highways connect almost all parts of the country. The federal government pays 90 percent of the cost of building and maintaining the system and assists state and local governments in building and maintaining other highways.
American Religious Liberties

The Role of Religion and Public Office

The inauguration of the president receives special attention in the Constitution, Article VI, which states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office" of the United States. A candidate for president does not have to meet a religious test or belong to any religion to be elected.

In an additional effort to make sure that religion does not determine a public official's appointment, Article VI also says that all federal and state officials "shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution." The option to affirm rather than to swear an oath of office was specifically intended for Quakers, whose religion prohibits swearing oaths.

1. What evidence in the Constitution shows that the founding fathers did not want to impose any formal religious qualifications for public officials?
2. How might an elected official's religion influence his or her position? Give examples.

Federal Government Programs

The federal government ensures the cooperation of state and local governments by providing funds to help them implement important programs. For example, grants-in-aid are federal funds given to state and local governments for specific projects, such as airport construction or pollution control. The government receiving the funds must meet certain standards and conditions, and must often provide some money of its own for the project. Grant-in-aid projects are subject to supervision by the federal government.

Like grants-in-aid, block grants are funds given by the federal government to state and local governments. However, block grants are given for broadly defined purposes. State and local governments develop and carry out the programs on which the funds will be spent. However, they must establish a spending plan and report expenditures to the federal government.

Differentiating Instruction

English-Language Learners

Compare and Contrast Types of Federal Funds

1. Ask students to reread the paragraphs under the heading Federal Government Programs.
2. Have students write the similarities and differences between grants-in-aid and block grants in their own words.
3. Tell students that if they find themselves using words already found in the excerpt, they should think of synonyms for these words.

Verbal/Linguistic

Direct Teach

Reading Focus

2. How do governments cooperate to meet people's needs?

Governments Cooperate to Serve the Public

Explain Why does local government control schools? Local governments are more familiar with the needs of students in their schools than state governments.

Compare and Contrast How are grants-in-aid and block grants similar and different? Both come from the federal government. Block grants are given for broadly defined purposes, while grants-in-aid are given to state and local governments for specific projects.

GOVERNMENT

Online Resources

go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SZ7 CH9

ACTIVITY: Federal Spending and Local Government

Answers

American Religious Liberties

1. Article VI states that there should not be any kind of religious test or requirement to hold office.
2. Students’ answers will vary but should show understanding that an elected official’s religious beliefs might affect his or her views on issues related to those beliefs.

Reading Check Federal government contributes to maintenance and construction of highways and other roads.
State and Local Governments

In the same way, states work with local governments to assure the quality of life in the United States. For example, stores and businesses must obey many state laws that require good business practices. State health regulations protect people eating at local restaurants. State education requirements ensure that all students in the state are offered the same education. For the same reason, workers in local factories and mines are protected by state inspectors who ensure that the industries obey all safety regulations. State bank inspectors help ensure that bank accounts are safe and that banks are following state and federal banking regulations.

State governments also establish state licensing boards. These boards administer examinations and issue licenses to accountants, dentists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, nurses, teachers, and other professionals. This service helps to ensure that communities have qualified professional workers and that these workers meet certain standards.

Governments in Competition

While local, state, and federal governments often work together on many matters, all of these levels of government also compete with one another in several ways. For example, governments at all levels compete for citizens’ tax dollars in the form of various income taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes.

States compete with each other to attract industry. State officials may offer tax breaks, a good supply of labor, efficient highway systems, and favorable laws to encourage industries to move to their state. Cities compete against each other for trade and industry in similar ways.

The combined system of federal, state, and local governments is complex. Conflicts among governments are to be expected at times. Only by working together can the country’s three levels of government fulfill their duty to serve the American people.

Summary

Defining: Describe the characteristics of state and local government. Define states and local government in your own words.


Recalling: Recall state and local government. What three levels of government cooperate?

Making Generalizations: Generalize the characteristics of state and local government. What are the main characteristics of state and local government?

Writing: Write a brief definition for each of the following terms:
- State
- Local government
- State and local government

Reading Check: Summarizing: What are some other ways that different levels of government cooperate?

Analysis: Analyzing Information: What are some of the areas in which governments compete?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

1. a. Identify: What three levels of government provide services to the American people?
   b. Make Generalizations: Government decisions at any level must not conflict with what national document?

2. a. Define: Write a brief definition for each of the following terms: grants-in-aid and block grants.
   b. Make Generalizations: Although all levels of government are involved in education, which government level actually controls the schools? Why?

3. a. Summarize: In what areas might state and local governments cooperate to maintain and improve citizens’ quality of life?
   b. Recall: What are some ways cities and states can attract new industry?

Critical Thinking

4. Finding Main Ideas: Using your notes and a chart like the one below, write a main idea sentence for each element of how governments function.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving the Public</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Analyzing Information: Imagine you have been invited by the local government to give a short speech titled “How Governmental Cooperation Serves Our Community.” Write a speech that explains how the three levels of government work together to improve life in your community.

Section 4 Assessment Answers

1. a. local, state, federal b. the U.S. Constitution
2. a. grants-in-aid, p. 241; block grants, p. 241 b. local government, because it is more familiar with local schools’ needs
3. a. income, property, and sales taxes b. low taxes, good labor supply, efficient highways, laws favorable to industry
4. Possible answers: All levels of government work together to provide certain services to citizens. Federal, local, and state governments cooperate to maintain and improve citizens’ quality of life. The three levels of government compete for tax dollars, and state governments compete to attract industry.
5. Speeches will vary but should display knowledge of how governments work together to provide local services and improve life in students’ community.