Name _____ Date _____

Local, State and National Government: Who Does What?

Directions: Read the passage about the three levels of government, then answer the questions. You can look back at the passage for every one.

Three Levels of Government

Who Does What? Three Levels of Government

Government in the United States works at three levels: local, state and national. Each level has its own leaders and its own jobs.

Local government serves a town, a city or a county. Many towns and cities have a mayor as their leader. A council usually makes the local laws. Local government runs city parks, and it often runs the public library and picks up trash, too. If a swing breaks at a city park, the city takes care of fixing it.

State government serves everyone in one state. The governor is its leader. State lawmakers meet in the state capital to make laws for the whole state. The state also gives out driver's licenses. A driver who moves to a new state gets a new license from that state.

National government serves the whole country. It is also called the federal government. The president is its leader, and Congress makes the nation's laws in Washington, D.C. Only the national government prints paper money and makes coins. That way, the same dollars and coins work in every state. The U.S. Postal Service is part of the national government too, so one mail system reaches every state.

Some jobs are shared by more than one level. Cities, states and the national government all build roads. Public schools are shared, too. A local school district usually runs the schools, while the state sets rules and helps pay for them.

1. A swing breaks at a city park. Why does the city fix it instead of the state?
   A. The national government runs every park.
   B. The state does not have any parks.
   C. Local government runs city parks.
   D. The governor makes all the city's laws.

2. Jada's family moves from Ohio to Texas, and her mom needs a new driver's license. Based on the passage, who gives it to her?
   A. The city they used to live in
   B. The state of Ohio
   C. The national government
   D. The state of Texas

3. According to the passage, where do state lawmakers meet to make laws for the whole state?

A. In Washington, D.C.
B. In the state capital
C. In every county
D. In a city hall

4. According to the passage, why does only the national government print paper money and make coins?

A. So cities can pay to fix their parks
B. So each state can make its own kind of money
C. So the same dollars and coins work in every state
D. So the mail can carry money to every state

5. Lena lives in Maine. She mails a birthday card to her grandpa in Hawaii. Why can one mail system carry it all that way?

A. Each state runs its own mail system.
B. The national Postal Service reaches every state.
C. Her town council made a law about mail.
D. Maine and Hawaii share one governor.

6. Congress makes laws for the whole nation. Which city is its home?

A. New York City
B. Washington, D.C.
C. Each state's capital city
D. Philadelphia

7. Match each leader or group from the passage to the job it does.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Mayor
2. _____ Governor
3. _____ President
4. _____ City or town council

A. Leads the national government
B. Leads a state
C. Leads a town or city
D. Makes local laws
E. Makes laws for one state
F. Makes laws for the whole nation

8. The passage says some jobs are shared. What does *shared* mean in this passage?

A. More than one level of government works on the job.
B. People take turns doing the job each year.
C. Only the national government does the job.
D. No level of government is in charge of the job.

9. Use the word bank to finish the sentence about what local government often does.

Word bank
trash • coins • mail • library

Local government often runs the public _____ and picks up the _____.