

Social Studies
Close Reading
Government



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Table of Contents

Levels of Government–A	Pg. 5
Levels of Government–B	Pg. 6
Levels of Government–C	Pg. 7
Levels of Government Questions	Pg. 8–10
Branches of Government–A	Pg. 11
Branches of Government–B	Pg. 12
Branches of Government–C	Pg. 13
Branches of Government Questions	Pg. 14–16
Government Services–A	Pg. 17
Government Services–B	Pg. 18
Government Services–C	Pg. 19
Government Services Questions	Pg. 20–232
Rights and Responsibilities–A	Pg. 23
Rights and Responsibilities–B	Pg. 24
Rights and Responsibilities–C	Pg. 25
Rights and Responsibilities Questions	Pg. 26–28
Democracy–A	Pg. 29
Democracy–B	Pg. 30
Democracy–C	Pg. 31
Democracy Questions	Pg. 32–34

This product was designed to give my students practice comprehending nonfiction text through “close readings”. I absolutely loved teaching through my Holidays Around the World Close Reading unit, and I knew that this strategy was something I wanted to continue throughout the rest of the school year. I am now creating passages and questions that integrate with the science and social studies topics that I am currently teaching. I plan to eventually create science and social studies packets for the entire year, and I’ll add a few seasonal topics as well.

This is not a “how to” guide for close reading. Instead, this product contains ten passages that can be used for close reading practice. There are three different versions of each passage, so you will have similar content for students on, above, and below grade level. I have leveled each passage using the Lexile Analyzer, but due to copyright laws, I’ve removed the lexile levels from the text. Passage A is written at fourth and fifth grade reading level. Passage B is written at a third grade reading level, and Passage C is written at a second grade reading level.

Each passage comes with three sets of close reading directions and questions. With each read, students will be asked to highlight and make notes in the text and will be asked questions that become more challenging with each read. I have included answer keys for the 1st and 2nd set of questions only, since answers will vary greatly for the third set of questions.

Reading Levels Conversion Chart

Grade Level	Lexile	Fountas & Pinnell	DRA
1 st	up to 300	E	8
1 st	up to 300	F	10
1 st	up to 300	G	12
1 st	80-450	H	14
1 st	80-450	I	16
1 st & 2 nd	80-450	J	18
2 nd	501-550	K	20
2 nd	551-600	L	24
2 nd	551-650	M	28
3 rd	520-730	N	30
3 rd	520-770	O	34
3 rd	520-820	P	38
4 th	740-900	Q	40
4 th	740-940	R	40
5 th	830-1010	S	40
5 th	830-1010	T	40
5 th	830-1010	U-W	50
6 th	925-1070	W+	
7 th	970-1120	W+	

Levels of Government

Government is a group that sets laws and runs a community.

There are three levels of government within the United States, which are national, state, and local government. Local governments leads a town or city. State government is what leads a state, and national government leads the entire country. There may be differences between communities, states, and the nation. However, local and state laws cannot conflict with national laws and local laws cannot conflict with state laws.

The mayor is the elected leader of local government. Some communities also have city or county councils. Local government runs the school system, organizes emergency services, and sets laws to keep its members safe.

State government is the level of government that runs the entire state. The governor is the elected leader of a state government. Each state also elects senators and representatives to represent their state in the national government. State government is in charge of a state's education and health systems, protecting the state's environment, and building and maintaining roads.

National government protects our country and our freedoms. The national government is in charge of creating treaties, declaring war, and printing money. The president is the head of our national government.



Levels of Government

Government is a group that sets laws and runs a community. Local government is what leads a town or city. State government is what leads a state. National government leads the entire country. Laws may differ between communities, states, and the nation. Local and state laws cannot conflict with national laws. The mayor is the elected leader of local government. Some communities also have city councils. The local government runs the school system, organizes emergency services, and sets laws to keep its members safe.

The state government runs the entire state. The governor is the elected leader of a state government. Each state also elects senators and representatives to represent their state in the national government. State government is in charge of the state's education and health systems, protecting the state's environment, and building and maintaining roads.

National government protects our country and our freedoms. The national government is in charge of the military and printing money. The president is the head of our national government.



Levels of Government

Government is a group that sets laws and runs a community. Local government is what leads a city. State government is what leads a state. National government leads the country. Laws may be different between levels. Local and state laws cannot conflict with national laws.

The mayor is the leader of local government. Some communities also have city councils. The local government runs the school system and organizes emergency services. It also sets laws to keep its members safe.

The state government runs the state. The governor is the leader of a state government. Each state elects senators and representatives to represent their state in the national government. State government is in charge of the state's education and health systems. It also protects the state's environment, and builds and maintains roads.

National government protects our country and our freedoms. The national government is in charge of the military and printing money. The president is the head of the national government.



Name_____

Date_____

Levels of Government

1st
Read

- Read the entire passage.
- Write any interesting observations or notes in the left margin.
- Write any questions you have about the text in the right margin.
- Answer the questions below. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

1. What is government? _____

2. Who is the elected head of local government? _____

3. What is state government responsible for? _____

4. Who is the head of our national government? _____

Name_____

Date_____

Levels of Government

2nd
Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Highlight one key word or phrase in each paragraph.
- Circle any words that you do not know (how to read or the meaning).
- Answer the questions below.

1. What nonfiction text features did the author use, and how did it help you understand the text?

2. Name a key word you highlighted. Why did you select that word?

3. What is the main purpose of the 3rd paragraph?

Name_____

Date_____

Levels of Government

3rd Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Write a small C beside ideas you could make a connection with.
- Write a + where you were able to add new information to your existing knowledge.
- Answer the last question in paragraph form.

Why do you think there are different levels of government?

