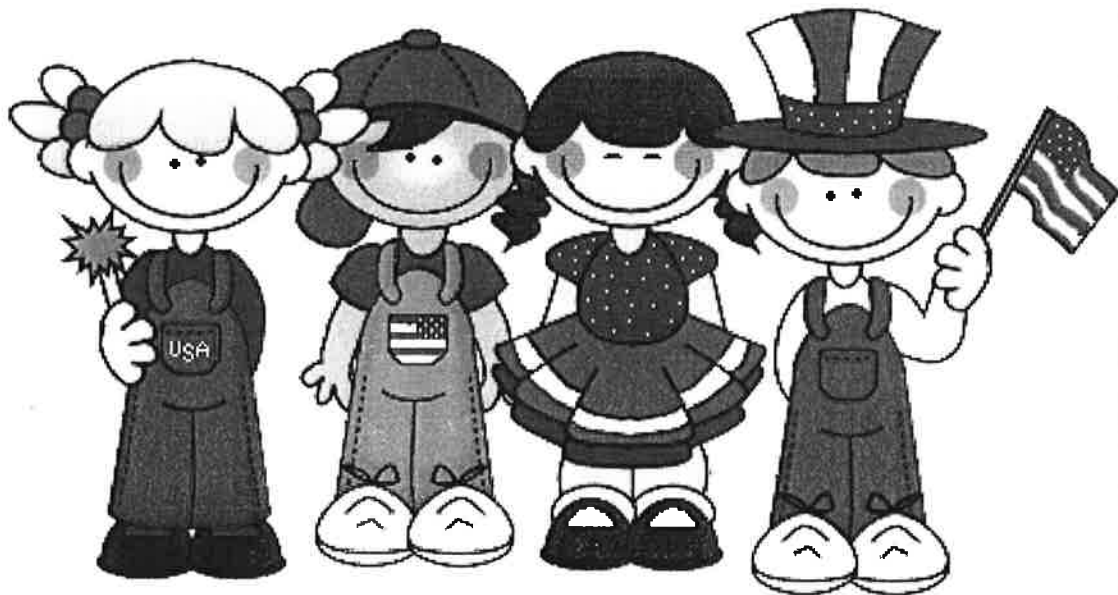


Louisiana's Government



Standards covered in this booklet:

Unit 4: State of Louisiana

Topic Two: Louisiana's Government and Citizens (3.5.1-6, 3.6.1-3)

After reading this booklet and completing the worksheets and test that go along with it you should have developed a solid understanding of the structure and function of state and national governments. You will understand how Louisiana citizens have an opportunity to improve the state by solving issues that are unique to our state.

Name

Teacher

☐



The Executive Branch (Federal)

The Constitution says that the United States must have a President and a Vice President. These two people and the people who work for them belong to the Executive Branch of the federal government. It is the duty of the President of the United States to run the federal government and to see that the laws of our nation are carried out.

The President is the highest representative of the people of our nation. The Presidential Seal has fifty stars surrounding it to show that the President represents all United States citizens. He or she must focus on the welfare of the entire nation, not just the people in one state or district like senators and representatives.



The President:

- represents our country in discussions with other nations.
- leads our nation in times of war.
- makes suggestions to Congress about laws.
- writes the budget, but must get Congress to approve it.
- works closely with Congress to get laws passed or rejected.

The President has the most important job in the nation. If a President dies or is in some other way unable to carry out his or her job, the Vice President becomes the new President of the United States.

The President chooses people to help him or her. Some of these are on the President's personal staff, like the press secretary, speech writers, and policy aides. Others are the heads of executive (Cabinet) departments. Others are heads of White House Offices and Agencies.

Multiple Choice: After reading the information above, choose the correct answers below.

1. What does the President do to our budget?

- (A) approve it
- (B) write it
- (C) spend it
- (D) find ways to falsify it

2. What happens if the president dies?

- (A) The Vice President becomes the President
- (B) His wife takes over as President
- (C) His oldest child becomes President
- (D) He gets to pick who takes his place

3. How many stars does the seal have?

- (A) The presidential seal has 50 stars.
- (B) The presidential seal has 13 stars.
- (C) The presidential seal has 50 stripes.
- (D) The presidential seal has no stars.

4. Who is NOT on the President's staff?

- (A) press secretary
- (B) speech writers
- (C) elementary school teachers
- (D) policy aides



The Legislative Branch (Federal)

In a democracy, the people have a voice in the making of their laws. Voters in our country elect people to represent and to serve as their voice in the law making process. Laws are made by the men and women who are elected to Congress by the voters of each state.

Congress is made up of two houses: The upper house is called the Senate, and the lower house is called the House of Representatives. Congress meets in Washington D.C., the capital city of the United States. "D.C." stands for the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia is not a state. It is not in a state, either. It is a district which acts like a combination of a city and state. Washington D.C. is an area where national government business is conducted.



The Senate

The men and women that work in the Senate are called "senators". The number of senators in Congress is spelled out in the Constitution. Each state has two senators. Each of the fifty states elects two men or women to the Senate of the United States. These senators stay in office for six years. Then they must try to get elected again if they want to stay in the Senate.

The House of Representatives

Men and women who belong to the House of Representatives are called representatives. The number of representatives a state has depends on the population of the state. Every state must have at least one representative though. Law now sets the total number of representatives at 435. The number of representatives a state sends to the House of Representatives depends on how many people live in the state. Representatives stay in office for only two years. If they want to stay in the House of Representatives, they must run for reelection every two years.

Fill In The Blank: After reading the information above, choose the correct answers below.



1. Congress is made up of ____ houses: The House of Representatives & The Senate.
2. The capital city of the United States is _____.
3. People that work in the House of Representatives are called _____.
4. People that work in the Senate are called _____.
5. Each state can elect ____ Senators that can stay in office for ____ years.



The Judicial Branch (Federal)

The Judicial Branch of the federal government interprets and reviews the laws of the nation. That means they try to figure out what laws actually mean. It is the highest court in the nation. The U.S. Supreme Court meets in the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C.

With such a big country there are many arguments about the rules and laws. Someone must be like an umpire and make the final decisions. Someone must settle these arguments in a fair way. The Constitution has a special plan to solve this problem: a system of federal courts in the Judicial Branch of the government.

The Supreme Court is the highest court. There are also lower courts. Disagreements and trials may start in the lower courts. These lower courts are called federal district courts. There are federal district courts in every state and in the District of Columbia.

If someone loses a case in the federal district court, they can appeal (try to have the decision changed) by taking the case to a higher court called the Circuit Court of Appeals. If they lose there, they may be able to take their case to the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. The Supreme Court only accepts cases on special constitutional problems. What this court says is the last decision. There is no appeal beyond the Supreme Court.

Multiple Choice: After reading the information above, choose the correct answers below.

1. What does the judicial branch do?

- ☐ (A) make laws
- ☐ (B) make sure laws are carried out
- ☐ (C) arrest people that don't follow laws
- ☐ (D) interpret and review laws

2. Where does the Supreme Court meet?

- ☐ (A) In the White House
- ☐ (B) In the Capitol Building
- ☐ (C) In the Supreme Court Building
- ☐ (D) In the biggest city in your state

3. Who acts like an umpire to settle cases?

- ☐ (A) The Supreme Court
- ☐ (B) The President of the United States
- ☐ (C) The Governor
- ☐ (D) The federal football Coach

4. What are the lower courts called?

- ☐ (A) city court
- ☐ (B) state judicial courts
- ☐ (C) federal district courts.
- ☐ (D) the supremest court

5. Who does "appeal" mean?

- ☐ (A) to keep the decision as it is
- ☐ (B) to get the decision changed
- ☐ (C) to get people to vote
- ☐ (D) to not follow the laws

6. Who makes the last decisions?

- ☐ (A) Federal District Court
- ☐ (B) The Circuit Court of Appeals
- ☐ (C) The President of the Courts
- ☐ (D) The Supreme Court



Louisiana's State Government

The powers of government of the state are divided into three separate branches also: The legislative, executive, and judicial. Except as otherwise provided by the constitution, no one of these branches, nor any person holding office in one of them, shall exercise power belonging to either of the others.

-- Louisiana Constitution, Article II, Section 2

The Executive Branch (State)

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch of Louisiana government provides direct services such as medical care for the poor, regulation of activities such as hazardous waste disposal, supervises education, and promotes the state to attract new businesses. The Executive branch includes:



The Governor: John Bel Edwards

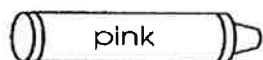
The governor is elected for a four-year term and may serve only two consecutive terms. The governor is responsible for preparing and submitting a budget and a five-year capital outlay program. The governor can veto or pass state bills into laws.



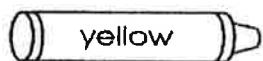
The Lieutenant Governor: Billy Nungesser

The lieutenant governor serves as governor in the event that the governor is unable to act as governor or is out of the state. The lieutenant governor has the powers and duties delegated to him or her by the governor or as provided by law.

Color the following text-based answers above in the colors stated below.



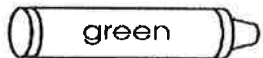
Who is the governor of Louisiana?



What are four things the executive branch does?



Who serves as governor in the event that the governor can't?



What is the governor responsible for preparing and submitting?

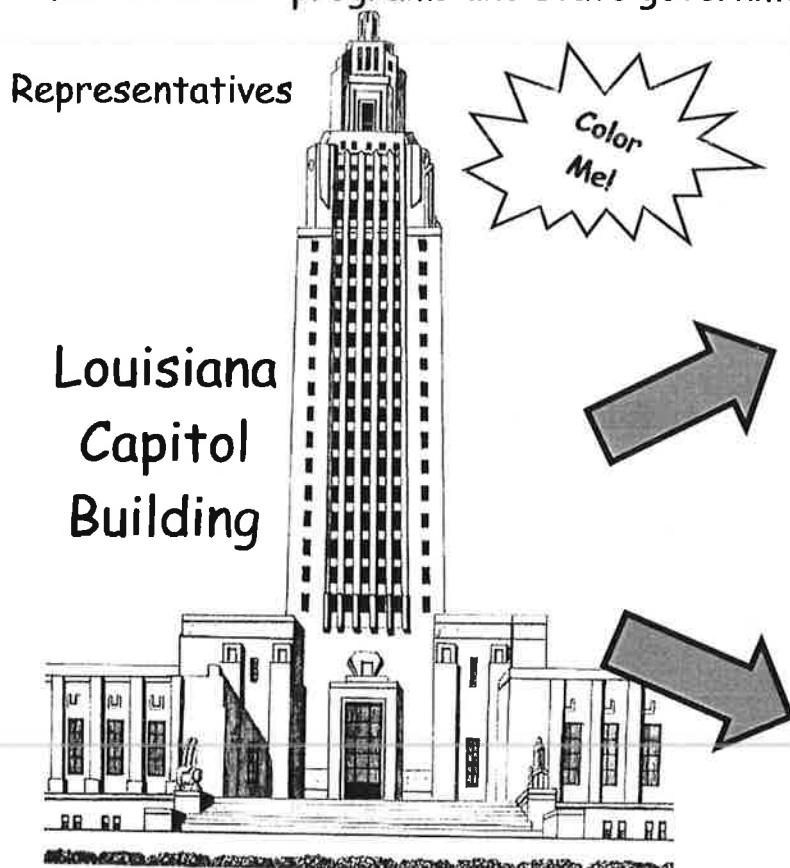


The Legislative Branch (State)

The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch consists of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the Louisiana State Senate. Senators and representatives are elected to serve at both the state and national level. In Louisiana, the representatives and senators that make up the legislature are elected from certain districts or areas of the state. The size of a district is based on its population. There are 39 senators and 105 representatives elected to Louisiana's legislature.

The legislative branch meets in the Louisiana Capitol Building in Baton Rouge. They are responsible for making state laws to determine state policy. They are also responsible for deciding how money will be used to finance state programs and state government.



Louisiana House of



Louisiana Senate



Question: What is the Louisiana legislative branch responsible for?



The Judicial Branch (State)

The judicial branch's power is vested in a Supreme Court, courts of appeal, district courts, and other courts including family courts, parish courts, and justice of the peace courts.

The judicial branch is responsible for administering the laws of the state and resolving legal conflicts. It includes the court system, comprising of Family and Juvenile Courts, the Clerk of Court, District Courts, District Attorneys, the Sheriff's office, coroners, Circuit Courts, Courts of Appeal, and the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Judges may, among other court orders, issue writs of habeas corpus (the power to call any prisoner before the court). The power of judges to punish for contempt of court is limited by law.

The **Supreme Court** is composed of a chief justice and six associate justices, four of whom must agree in order to render a judgment. Supreme Court judges serve 10 year terms. The state is divided into 7 Supreme Court districts, and at least one judge is elected from each. The districts and the number of judges assigned sometimes change.



Directions: Read the following questions and write T (True) or F (False) on the lines.

- ___1. The judicial branch is responsible for administering the laws of the country.
- ___2. Police may, among other court orders, issue writs of habeas corpus.
- ___3. Habeas corpus is the power to call any prisoner bad names.
- ___4. The Supreme Court is composed of a chief justice and sixteen associate justices.
- ___5. Four of the justices must agree in order to render a judgment.
- ___6. The state is divided into 70 Supreme Court Districts.
- ___7. The districts and the number of judges assigned NEVER changes.



Other Governments

We have now looked at how the national government and state government are similar in structure. There are also different levels of government within our state.

- The state government leads a state.
- The local government leads a specific town or city.

Both the local and state governments set laws. They also provide services to the people. The government affects everyone. Because the government affects everyone, it is important for good leaders to run the government. At the state level, people elect a governor. Different levels of local government also have leaders.

- Parishes have a parish president that leads the parish government.
- Another local government is a city. A city elects a mayor. Many cities and towns have city councils that are also elected by the people. They work together and run the community.

Citizens of Louisiana vote for most of the state and local government positions, but some are appointed or chosen by our leaders. Elected officials represent the people. People vote for the person they feel will do the best job.

State vs. Federal Government

	Louisiana Government	United States Government
Executive Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led by the governor• Carries out the laws of the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led by the president• Carries out the laws of the country
Legislative Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes laws for the state• Congress has TWO houses<ul style="list-style-type: none">-House of Representatives-Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes laws for the country• Congress has TWO houses<ul style="list-style-type: none">-House of Representatives-Senate
Judicial Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluates laws• State Supreme Court, Appeals Court, and District Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluates laws• Supreme Court and Federal Courts

GOVERNMENT

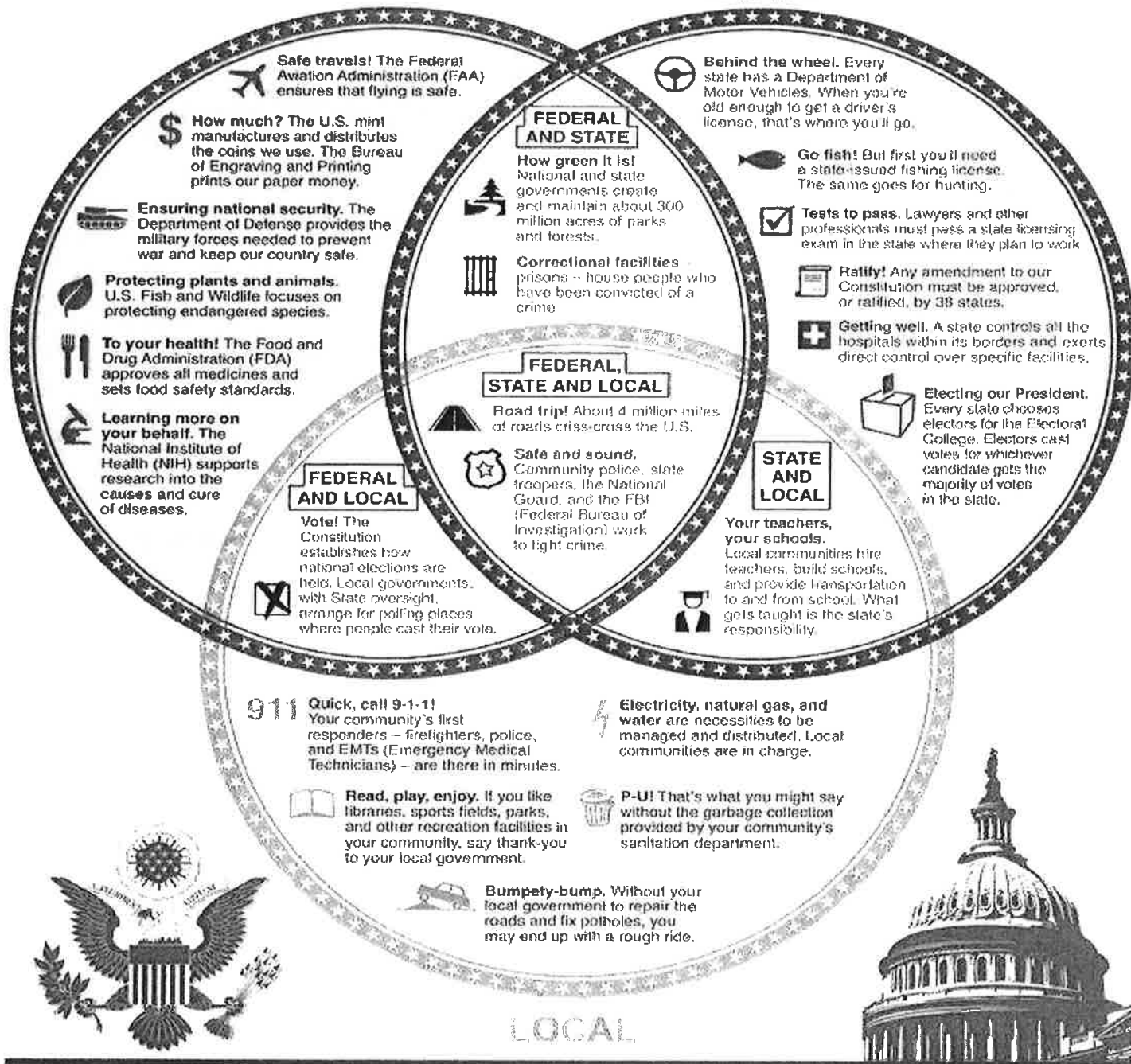
WHO TAKES CARE OF WHAT?

Your food is safe. Your state has roads and schools. Your community has parks and police. Government makes these things happen... and more.

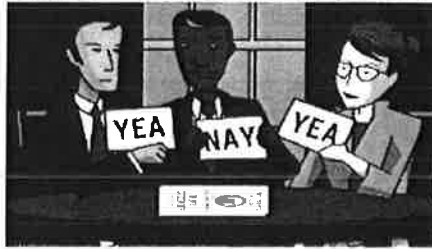


FEDERAL

STATE



Government Officials In Louisiana



Government officials are people that we elect or choose to make decisions for us on the local, state, or federal level. The officials find out what we, as citizens, want and then voice our concerns and vote on our behalf when decisions are being made. It may seem like they are powerful, but they work FOR US!

Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Executive Branch • Elected for 4 years • Oversees city laws and ordinances
Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Judicial Branch • Elected for 6 years • Judges all civil and criminal matters
District Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Judicial Branch • Elected for 6 years • Prosecutes criminal cases
Sherriff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Judicial Branch • Elected for 4 years • Enforces the laws
School Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Votes on public education
City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected by the people • Votes on city related matters



Louisiana Government Weekly Assessment

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Number: _____

1. According to information on page 2, who are the top two people in the executive branch?

The top two people are _____ and _____.

2. Who becomes President if the President dies? (According to information on page 2)

If the President of the U.S. dies, _____ becomes President.

3. What are the 2 parts of the legislative branch? (According to information on page 3)

The two parts are the House of _____ and the _____.

Directions: Read each of the questions below and bubble in the correct answer.

4. What is the highest judicial court? (pg.2)

- ☐ (A) The Royal Court
- ☐ (B) The Supreme Court
- ☐ (C) The High Court
- ☐ (D) The Homecoming Court

5. What are people who work in the senate called?

- ☐ (A) senators
- ☐ (B) representatives (pg.4)
- ☐ (C) senatives
- ☐ (D) presidents

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blank with the correct word from the word bank below.



umpire

three

appeal

Washington D.C.

6. If someone loses a case they can _____ or get the decision changed.

7. The Supreme Court is like an _____ helping to make final decisions.

8. There are _____ branches of government.

9. The United States government meets in _____.

Multiple Choice: After reading page 5, read each question and choose the correct answer.

10. Who is Louisiana's current governor?

- ☐ (A) Donald Trump
- ☐ (B) Billy Nungesser (pg.5)
- ☐ (C) Barack Obama
- ☐ (D) John Bel Edwards

11. What is the governor responsible for?

- ☐ (A) preparing and submitting a budget
- ☐ (B) making sure all Louisianians have food
- ☐ (C) making laws that deal with education
- ☐ (D) counting Louisiana's money

Directions: Fill in the blank with a word that correctly completes each statement.

12. The _____ governor serves as governor if the governor is out of state.
13. There are _____ senators in Louisiana's legislature. (pg.6)
14. There are _____ representatives in Louisiana's legislature. (pg.6)
15. The legislative branch meets in the Capitol Building in _____, Louisiana.

Multiple Select: Read each question and choose MORE THAN ONE correct answer.

16. Which of these are levels of government?

- ☐ A Level 5
- ☐ B state
- ☐ C federal
- ☐ D local
- ☐ E Supreme
- ☐ F Power Up Level

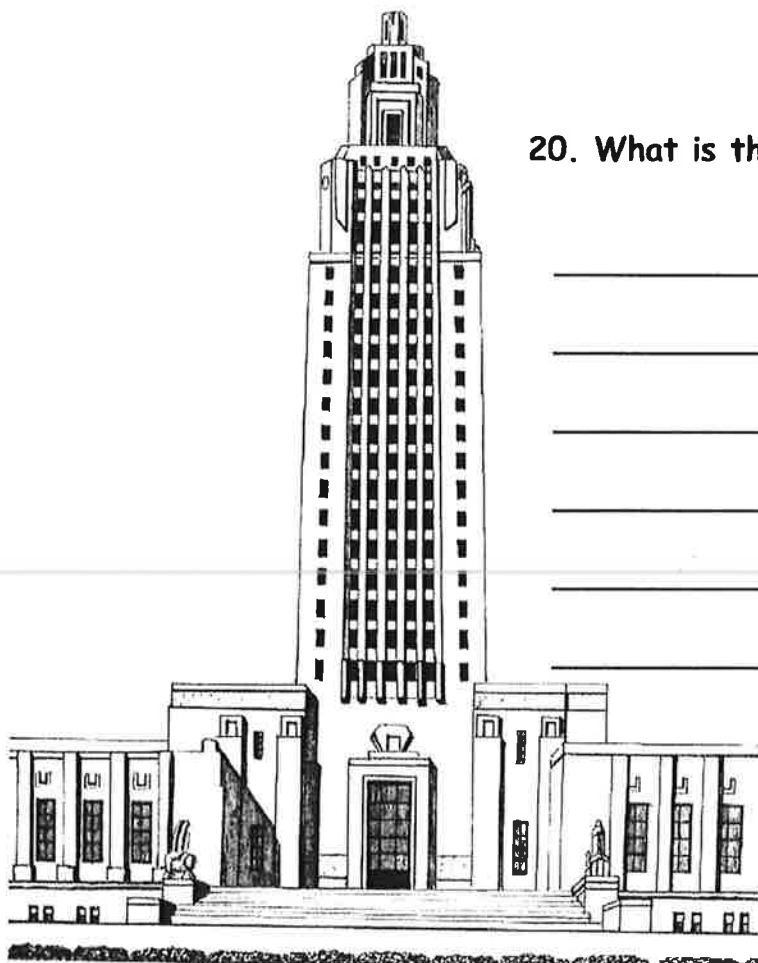
17. Which of these are government officials?

- ☐ A teachers
- ☐ B celebrities
- ☐ C librarians
- ☐ D mayor
- ☐ E judge
- ☐ F district attorney

Read the questions below and answer them according to the information on page 10.

18. If you were elected as mayor, you would be elected to serve _____ years.
19. The mayor of a city is chosen to oversee _____.

20. What is this building called and what is it for?



Color the building grey!

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