

Unit 5

Name:

Date:

5-1 Why Do We Have Local Governments?

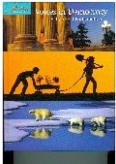


Inquiry

Focus on this question:

- 1 Why do we have local governments?

Resources for Inquiry



Textbook

Pages 102 to 105

You can also use the resources mentioned in the online course.

Read pages 8 -9 and pages 38-39 in *Take Action – Make a Difference*

Notes

This inquiry will take a few days. These questions are quite broad and have many aspects required in your response. Write your responses to the questions below during your inquiry.

1. What do local governments do?

2. Why is local government important? (Why not just have Canadian government?)

3. What is the form of local government in your community?

4. When and where does your local government meet?

5. How long is the term of office for a representative in your area?

6. How many members are in your local government?

7. The actions below are all things that citizens can do to strengthen their local communities. For each action listed below, put a number next to it indicating how important you think that action is.

Not Very Important 1	Somewhat Important 2	Not Sure 3	Important 4	Very Important 5
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- ___ A. attending a public meeting
- ___ B. voting
- ___ C. volunteering to work for a candidate who wants to become a representative
- ___ D. posting a political sign in your yard
- ___ E. following the daily news
- ___ F. voicing your opinion on an issue
- ___ G. writing a letter-to-the-editor about a community issue
- ___ H. holding a protest
- ___ I. taking part in a bottle, food or clothing drive
- ___ J. belonging to a neighborhood or service club
- ___ K. picking up garbage
- ___ L. contacting a local representative to share your thoughts on an issue of importance to you
- ___ M. campaigning to become an elected representative such as mayor
- ___ N. designing a petition and getting people's signatures on an issue important to you
- ___ O. constructing a poster, publishing a brochure, launching a web site or blog on the Internet about a local issue

8. After you have read pages 8- 9 and pages 38-39 in *Take Action – Make a Difference*, interview three people in your community. Identify their role (person who does a service job in the community such as a nurse, person who lives and works in the community such as a store owner, or family member) Ask them to identify three areas in which the community could improve. You may select people known to you such as family or friends for these interviews. You will use this information in a later assignment in this Unit.



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Name your file in this format: jsmithss6_self-check-5-1-notes and save your file to your Documents folder.