

Guided Reading Activity

Foundations of Government

Lesson 1 *Purposes and Origins of Government*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: Legitimate and functioning governments maintain order, protect people, and provide them with ways to settle disagreements fairly and peacefully.

- 1. Detail:** Governments provide _____ by setting priorities and making decisions on behalf of the people.
- 2. Detail:** Governments maintain _____ by placing limits on what individuals are permitted to do and by enforcing these limits.
- 3. Detail:** Governments provide _____ such as schools, sewer systems, roads, and often the means of promoting public health and safety.
- 4. Detail:** Governments provide for _____ in order to protect the people against attack by another country or by terrorists.
- 5. Detail:** Governments provide _____ through trade deals, protection of national businesses, and economic policies.
- 6. Detail:** Many governments provide _____ to people in need.

B. Main Idea: Although the terms *nation*, *country*, and *state* are sometimes used interchangeably, they have slightly different meanings.

- 1. Detail:** A _____ is a sizable group of people who believe themselves united by common bonds of race, language, custom, or religion.
- 2. Detail:** States and countries are political communities, each occupying a defined _____ and having an organized government.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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3. **Detail:** The four essential features of a state are _____, _____, _____, and _____.

C. **Main Idea:** Scholars have constructed four key theories to explain the origin of governments.

1. **Detail:** The _____ theory suggests that the state evolved from the family unit in order to provide more organization to extended families.

2. **Detail:** According to the _____ theory, states were created when leaders used their power to compel cooperation between people.

3. **Detail:** The _____ theory came from European monarchs who claimed that their right to rule came directly from God.

4. **Detail:** According to the _____ theory, governments are created when people surrender their freedom to the state in exchange for order and security.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Identify the purposes of government. Explain which purposes would be most important to a government formed according to the force theory and which would be most important to a government formed under the social contract theory.
