Chapter Summary

Local Government

Lesson 1 City Governments

- A city or municipality is an area with an organized government that provides services to its residents.
- A state grants a city a charter. Like a constitution, a city charter describes the type of city government, its structure, and its powers.
- The two main forms of city government are the mayor-council form and the council-manager form.
- In a mayor-council form of government, the mayor has executive power and appoints people to run city departments. The city council has legislative power and approves the budget.
- Some cities elect council members based on voting districts or wards, while others hold citywide elections for all members.
- The city charter determines whether a mayor is weak or strong. Strong mayors write city budgets, veto laws, and appoint city officials.
- In the council-manager form of government, the city manager draws up a budget and oversees departments. The city council can hire and fire the city manager.
- The commission form of government is no longer very common. It divides executive power among commissioners who head city departments and meet to pass ordinances.
- A special district is a unit of government formed to carry out a specific task, such as education or transportation.
- Metropolitan areas include cities and the communities or suburbs near or around cities.

Lesson 2 County Governments

- Counties vary in size and population but they are usually a state's largest territorial and political units.
- Boards of commissioners or supervisors run most counties. Board members usually serve four-year terms, pass ordinances, set the budget, and levy taxes.
Chapter Summary

Local Government

Lesson 2 County Governments, Cont.

- In one model of county government, the board of commissioners serves executive and legislative roles.
- In a second model of county government, the board serves as the legislature and names a county manager as the executive.
- In a third model of county government, the board operates as a legislature and the people elect a county executive.
- County sheriffs enforce the law.
- District attorneys investigate, charge, and prosecute people accused of crimes.
- The county assessor estimates the value of property on which property taxes are based.
- The treasurer is in charge of the county’s funds.
- The auditor makes sure county money is spent properly.
- The county clerk keeps official government records.
- The coroner helps the police investigate suspicious deaths.

Lesson 3 Towns, Townships, and Villages

- Counties are often divided into smaller political units. In New England they are called towns. Towns handle most of the day-to-day duties of government while counties oversee the local judicial system.
- In the Midwest these smaller political units are called townships. Townships can include several small communities and often share power with county government.
- County government is more important in the South and the West where there may be no townships.
- In early New England town meetings, citizens, not elected representatives, made the important decisions. This form of direct democracy is no longer practical for day-to-day governing.
Chapter Summary

Local Government

Lesson 3  Towns, Townships, and Villages, Cont.

- Today, many New England towns still hold yearly town meetings, but they also elect officials to run the daily business of local government.

- Villages are the smallest units of local government. Because their populations are small they may not need their own government and instead rely on county or township government to serve them.
Resumen del capítulo

Gobierno local

Lección 1 Gobiernos de la ciudad

- Una ciudad o municipio es un área con un gobierno organizado que presta servicios a sus habitantes.
- Los estados confieren a las ciudades una carta de la ciudad. Al igual que una constitución, una carta de la ciudad describe el tipo de gobierno de la ciudad, su estructura y sus poderes.
- Los dos modelos principales de gobierno de una ciudad son el modelo alcalde-concejo y el modelo concejo-administrador.
- En un modelo de gobierno alcalde-concejo el alcalde tiene poder ejecutivo y nombra a las personas que dirigen los departamentos de la ciudad. El concejo de la ciudad tiene poder legislativo y aprueba el presupuesto.
- Algunas ciudades eligen a los miembros del concejo con base en los distritos electorales, mientras que otras organizan elecciones en toda la ciudad para elegir a todos los miembros.
- La carta de la ciudad determina la debilidad o fortaleza del alcalde. Los alcaldes fuertes preparan los presupuestos de la ciudad, vetan leyes y nombran funcionarios.
- En el modelo de gobierno concejo-administrador, el administrador prepara el presupuesto y supervisa los departamentos. El concejo puede contratar y despedir al administrador de la ciudad.
- El gobierno por comisión ya no es muy común. Este modelo divide el poder ejecutivo entre los comisionados, quienes dirigen los departamentos de la ciudad y se reúnen para aprobar ordenanzas.
- Un distrito especial es una unidad de gobierno formada para realizar una tarea específica, como la educación o el transporte.
- Las áreas metropolitanas incluyen las ciudades y las comunidades periféricas cercanas.

Lección 2 Gobiernos de la ciudad

- Los condados tienen diferente tamaño y población, pero por lo general son las mayores unidades territoriales y políticas del estado.
- Las juntas de comisionados o supervisores dirigen la mayoría de los condados. Los miembros de la junta por lo general trabajan durante periodos de cuatro años, aprueban ordenanzas, fijan el presupuesto y recaudan impuestos.

(Continued on page 2)
Resumen del capítulo

Gobierno local

- En un modelo de gobierno del condado, la junta de comisionados cumple las funciones ejecutiva y legislativa.
- En un segundo modelo de gobierno del condado, la junta funciona como asamblea legislativa y nombra a un administrador del condado para que ejerza el poder ejecutivo.
- En un tercer modelo de gobierno del condado, la junta funciona como asamblea legislativa y las personas eligen al ejecutivo del condado.
- Los comisarios del condado hacen cumplir la ley.
- Los fiscales de distrito investigan, acusan y entablan acción judicial contra las personas acusadas de delitos.
- El tasador del condado estima el valor de la propiedad sobre el cual se basan los impuestos prediales.
- El tesorero es el encargado de los recursos del condado.
- El auditor se asegura de que el dinero del estado se gaste de manera adecuada.
- El secretario del condado lleva el registro de los documentos oficiales del gobierno.
- El juez de instrucción ayuda a la policía a investigar las muertes sospechosas.

Lección 3 Pueblos, ayuntamientos y aldeas

- Por lo general, los condados se dividen en unidades políticas más pequeñas. En Nueva Inglaterra estas se denominan pueblos. Los pueblos manejan los deberes cotidianos del gobierno, en tanto que los condados supervisan el sistema judicial local.
- En el Medio Oeste estas unidades políticas más pequeñas se llaman ayuntamientos. Los ayuntamientos pueden incluir varias comunidades pequeñas y por lo general comparten el poder con el gobierno del condado.
- El gobierno del condado es más importante en el Sur y en el Oeste, donde es probable que no haya ayuntamientos.
- En las primeras asambleas de los pueblos en Nueva Inglaterra los ciudadanos eran quienes tomaban las decisiones importantes, no los representantes elegidos. Esta forma de

(Continued on page 3)
democracia directa ya no se practica en los asuntos cotidianos del gobierno.

- Hoy, muchos pueblos de Nueva Inglaterra siguen organizando asambleas anuales, pero además eligen funcionarios que dirijan los asuntos diarios del gobierno local.

- Las aldeas son las unidades más pequeñas del gobierno local. Debido a que tienen una población reducida es probable que no necesiten un gobierno propio y, en cambio, dependan del gobierno del condado o del ayuntamiento.
A. Content Vocabulary

Part 1

Directions: Fill in the blanks next to each of the content vocabulary words with names of places in your area. For example, next to “town” write the name of a town near where you live.

1. county
   ______________________

2. town
   ______________________

3. metropolitan area
   ______________________

4. special district
   ______________________

5. village
   ______________________

6. township
   ______________________

7. county seat
   ______________________

Part 2

Directions: Match the content vocabulary words with their definitions.

   ____ 1. incorporate  ____ 5. suburb
   ____ 2. ordinance  ____ 6. at-large election
   ____ 3. city charter  ____ 7. home rule
   ____ 4. town meeting

A. a community that is near a larger city
B. the power enjoyed by some municipalities to write their own charters, choose their own type of government, and manage their own affairs
C. an election for an area as a whole
D. to receive a state charter officially recognizing the government of a locality
Vocabulary Builder Activity

Local Government

A. Content Vocabulary, Cont.

E. a document granting power to a local government
F. a law, usually of a city or county
G. a gathering of local citizens to discuss and vote on important issues
B. Academic Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the synonym of each of the academic vocabulary words from the box. Fill in the line next to each academic vocabulary word with its synonym.

levy  estimate  complex  similar  dominate  reluctant

1. alike
2. guess
3. control
4. complicated
5. hesitant
6. charge
Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct academic or content vocabulary word. You may need to change the form of the word to fit the sentence.

town meeting  ordinance  reluctant  county seat

city charter  home rule  complex  metropolitan area

incorporate  at-large election  suburb

1. Our city received a(n) _________ yesterday and now we are officially _________ . Luckily, the state approved our request to allow us to have _________ . This means we wrote our own charter, chose our own government, and wrote our own laws, or _________ . Under the charter, our city council will be chosen in a(n) _________ .

2. Many townspeople are _________ to go to the _________ tonight because we will be discussing _________ issues and the meeting will go on for hours.

3. Many small communities have developed near the city, creating a very large _________ . When people move from the city to the _________ , they become dependent on cars for transportation.

4. The county courthouse is here, which makes our town the _________ .
Lesson 1  City Governments

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
• Why do people create, structure, and change governments?

How City Governments Are Created

1. Identifying  As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer to show where cities find money to pay for services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Money to Pay for City Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40% of income comes from:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Explaining  Complete the web diagram to show two ways an area becomes a city.

Becoming a City

The Mayor-Council Form

3. Listing  Name the three forms of city government in the United States.

________________________

________________________

________________________
4. **Organizing** As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer to show details about the mayor-council type of government. Tell what kind of power each has, and list the duties and responsibilities of each.

**Mayor-Council Government**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Council</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. **Comparing** As you read the text, complete the chart to describe the characteristics of the strong-mayor system and the weak-mayor system. When is each system most successful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong-Mayor System</th>
<th>Characteristics of</th>
<th>Successful when</th>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weak-Mayor System</th>
<th>Characteristics of</th>
<th>Successful when</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>•</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Guided Reading

Local Government

Council-Manager and Commission Governments

6. **Describing** As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer to describe the council-manager form of city government.

   ![Diagram]

   - City Council
   - hires
   - fires
   - City Manager
     -
     -
     -
     -

7. **Explaining** Explain how the commission form of government works. What is a common problem with this type of city government?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Guided Reading

Local Government

8. **Defining** Complete the statements below on other types of city government.

   A ______________ is a unit of government that deals with a specific function, such as water supply.

   Together, a central city and its suburbs are called a ______________.

   In some areas, city and suburban officials form ______________ to make decisions about growth and services for the whole area, such as public transportation.
Lesson 2  County Governments

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
• Why do people create, structure, and change governments?

How County Governments Are Organized

1. Summarizing As you read the text, fill in the web diagram with the features of counties and county seats of the 1800s.
Guided Reading
Local Government

The Functions of County Government

2. Describing Complete the chart by writing details that describe the structure of county government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Duties</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Comparing As you read the text, complete the Venn diagram by listing the characteristics and responsibilities of a county manager and a county executive. At the intersection of the two ovals, list the ways that the two jobs are alike.
4. **Describing** As you read the text, use the chart to list elected lower-level county officials and their duties. The first row has been completed for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Lower-Level County Officials</th>
<th>Duties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td>County’s chief law enforcement officer. Enforces court orders and runs county jail; sometimes shares duties with a county police department.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<p>| | |</p>
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Lesson 3  Towns, Townships, and Villages

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**
- Why do people create, structure, and change governments?

**Towns and Town Meetings**

1. **Organizing** Complete the graphic organizer below to show how cities, towns, and townships relate to counties and states.

```
State
   ↓
   ↓
   ↓
City  Town  Township
```

2. **Describing** As you read the text, complete the web diagram by listing the features of a New England town meeting.

```
New England Town Meeting
   ↓
   ↓
   ↓
Feature  Feature  Feature
```
Guided Reading

Local Government

3. **Inferring** New England towns that hold annual town meetings also elect selectmen and other local officials. Why are selectmen and officials necessary?

   

   

   

Townships and Villages

4. **Explaining** As you read the text, use the chart below to take notes on the history and governing of townships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5. **Summarizing** Sometimes small communities decide to become villages. Complete the flowchart to show how and why communities create villages.

- Community decides to become a village because

- Community asks ________ to become a village.

- Community is granted village status

- Village elects government made up of ________ and sometimes a(n) ________.

- Benefits to community for becoming a village include ________.