

New York State Government: Local Government

NYS SS Framework:

4.4 GOVERNMENT: There are different levels of government within the United States and New York State. The purpose of government is to protect the rights of citizens and to promote the common good. The government of New York State establishes rights, freedoms, and responsibilities for its citizens.

- 4.4c Government in New York State is organized into counties, cities, towns, and villages.
 - Students will identify the county in which they live, noting where their city, town or village is within that county.
 - Students will examine the structure of their local government and its relationship

Lesson #1: County Government

Materials:

- "The Government of New York State: Local Government: Identify Your County and Town/Village/City" page for students.
- "The Government of New York: Local Government" flowchart student page.
- "The Government of New York: Local Government: County Government" student page.
- "The Government of New York: Local Government: County Government Services" student page.
- Ticket to Leave- county government questions.

Anticipatory Set: Start by reviewing the levels of government, directing the conversation to local government. Look at "The Government of New York State: Local Government: Identify Your County and Town/Village/City" together. Review the way our country is divided into states, our state divided into counties divided into towns/villages/cities.

Note: County governments in New York State can be a little bit different. This lesson is for those who live in a county that has a county government. If you live in a town or village that is not part of a county government, you will also

Lesson #2- Municipal Government

Materials:

- "The Government of New York: Local Government: Municipal Government" student page.

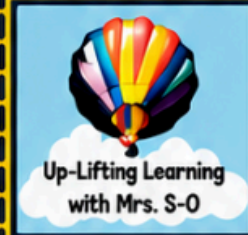
Anticipatory Set: Review the levels of government, directing the conversation to local government. Look at "The Government of New York State: Local Government: Identify Your County and Town/Village/City" together. Review the way our country is divided into states, our state divided into counties divided into towns/villages/cities.

Body: Read the "The Government of New York: Local Government: Municipal Government" student page. Use the town/village/city government flowchart to identify the positions fit with the first box. The first box is the town/village/city government. The first box is the town/village/city government. The first box is the town/village/city government.

Closure: Write a class letter to your town's mayor or supervisor inviting him/her to come and speak to you.

Review and give assessment for this standard.

Full Lesson Plans



• NYS SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK •

4.4 GOVERNMENT

THE GOVERNMENT IN NEW YORK STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ELA
INTEGRATED
★★★

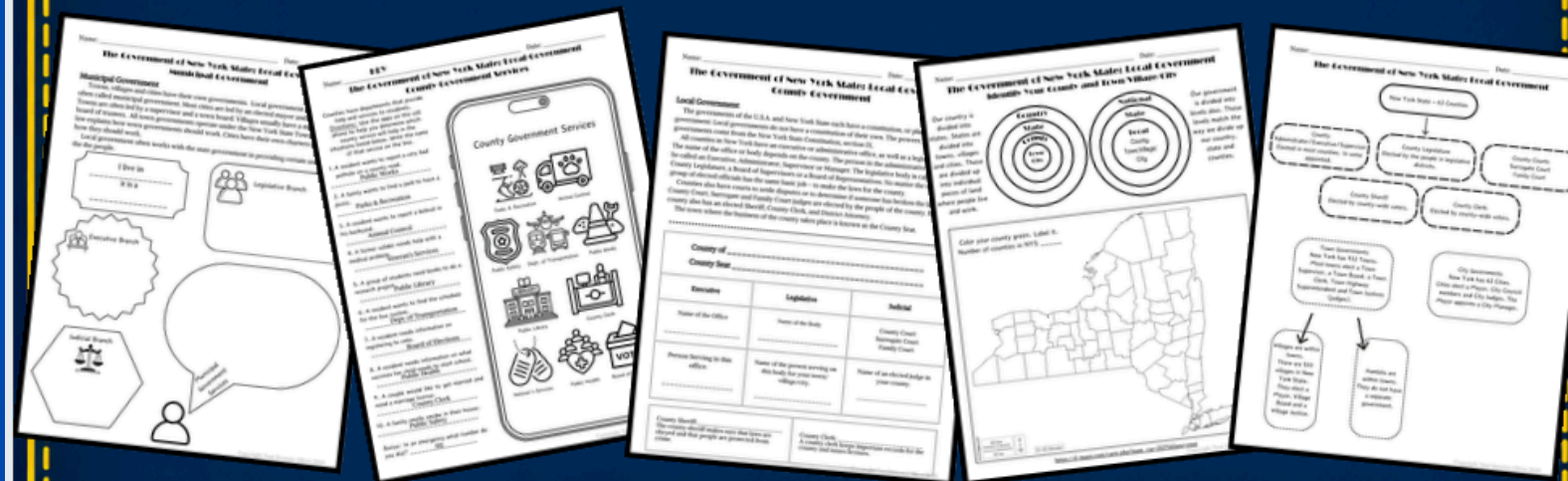
4.4c

LESSON,
ORGANIZERS,
TEXT &
ASSESSMENT
★★★

ASSESSMENTS

BUILD THINKING
SKILLS

ENGAGING
ACTIVITIES



NO PREP • PRINT & GO • ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

Name: _____ Date: _____



The Government of New York State: Local Government Sum-it-Up

1. Color our county and label it on the map.
2. Put a dot where our town/city is and label it on the map.



County Government

3. Our county is led by a(n) _____.
4. The person in this office is _____.
5. Our county legislative branch is called _____.

Assessment

Municipal Government

8. I live in a _____.
9. It is led by a (name of office) _____.
10. The person in this position is _____.
11. The legislative branch is called _____.
12. Three services our town/village/city provides for citizens include:

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Government of New York State: Local Government

Identify Your County and Town/Village/City

Our country is divided into states. States are divided into towns, villages and cities. These are divided up into individual pieces of land where people live and work.

Our government is divided into levels also. These levels match the way we divide up our country, state and counties.

Color your county green. Label it.

Number of counties in NYS _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Government of New York State: Local Government

County Government

Local Government

The governments of the U.S.A. and New York State each have a constitution, or plan for government. Local governments do not have a constitution of their own. The powers given to local governments come from the New York State Constitution, section IX.

All counties in New York have an executive or administrative office, as well as a legislative body. The name of the office or body depends on the county. The person in the administrative office can be called an Executive, Administrator, Supervisor or Manager. The legislative body is called a Board of Representatives. No matter the title, this body's job is to make the laws for the county. The person in the administrative office can be called an Executive, Administrator, Supervisor or Manager. The legislative body is called a Board of Representatives. No matter the title, this body's job is to make the laws for the county.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Government of New York State: Local Government

New York State – 62 Counties

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Government of New York State: Local Government

County Government Services

Counties have departments that provide help and services to residents.

Directions: Use the apps on the cell phone to help you determine which county service will help in the situations listed below. Write the name of that service on the line.

1. A resident wants to report a very bad pothole on a county road.
2. A family wants to find a park to have a picnic.
3. A resident wants to report a problem with his backyard.
4. A former soldier needs help with a medical problem.
5. A group of students need books to do a research project.
6. A resident wants to find the schedule for the bus system.
7. A resident needs information on registering to vote.
8. A resident needs information on what vaccines her child needs to start school.
9. A couple would like to get married and need a marriage license.
10. A family smells smoke in their house.

Bonus: In an emergency what number do you dial? _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Government of New York State: Local Government

Municipal Government

Municipal Government

Towns, villages and cities have their own governments. Local government at this level is often called municipal government. Most cities are led by an elected mayor and a council. Towns are often led by a supervisor and a town board. Villages usually have a mayor and a board of trustees. All town governments operate under the New York State Town Law. This law explains how town governments should work. Cities have their own charters to explain how they should work.

State government in providing certain services to

Municipal Government Services

Information graphics

Student activity pages

Town Governments
New York has 932 Towns.
Most towns elect a Town Supervisor, a Town Board, a Town Clerk, Town Highway Superintendent and Town Justices (judges).

City Governments
New York has 62 Cities.
Cities elect a Mayor, City Council members and City Judges. The Mayor appoints a City Manager.

Villages are within towns.
There are 533 villages in New York State.
They elect a Mayor, Village Board and a Village Justice.

Hamlets are within towns.
They do not have a separate government.

Copyright Toni Stevens-Oliver 2026