

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

The United States has three different levels of government. The federal, state, and local governments all have different but similar functions. The federal (national) government operates off the United States Constitution. The word constitution means a plan of government. The United States Constitution gives powers to the federal government and assigns other powers to the state governments. State governments also assign powers to local county governments. All levels of government have three different branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative branch makes the laws. The executive branch carries out the laws. The judicial branch interprets the laws in a court system.

At the federal level, the legislative branch is also called Congress. The Congress is bicameral, which means it is divided into two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The executive branch is headed by the President, who serves a four-year term. Under the President and Vice President are 15 departments that specialize in a specific area like education or defense. The judicial branch includes the Supreme Court and determines if something is constitutional or unconstitutional.

States are divided into smaller governments that have a specific geographic area, called local or state governments. The county governments have certain powers that come from the state government. Inside of the counties are cities and towns. Sometimes the cities and towns will have a smaller government within the county. The county governments provide police, firefighters, and libraries. They also make sure that the local roads are maintained. Local governments focus on local issues. They work to solve local issues like funding for all types of public needs.

The federal government is divided into states. The states are clearly defined by borders. Each state has its own constitution that defines its laws and powers. The leader of a state government is the governor. The state government has many responsibilities. The state government can levy or

3

The federal government must follow the United States _____



Constitution



Declaration



Constitution



Magna Carta

4

The United States has _____ different levels of government.



3



4



1



2

5

What is another word for federal?



International



County



State



National

6

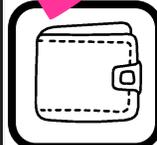
Which level of government deals with other countries?



County



Federal



State



Local

7

Which word means
an of
government?



Police



House



Amusement



Construction

8

Which of the following
is an example of
infrastructure?



Buildings



Roads



Bridges



All of the above

9

Which branch
makes the laws?



Judicial



Legislative



Executive



Parliament

10

Which branch
interprets the laws?



Executive



Judicial



Parliament

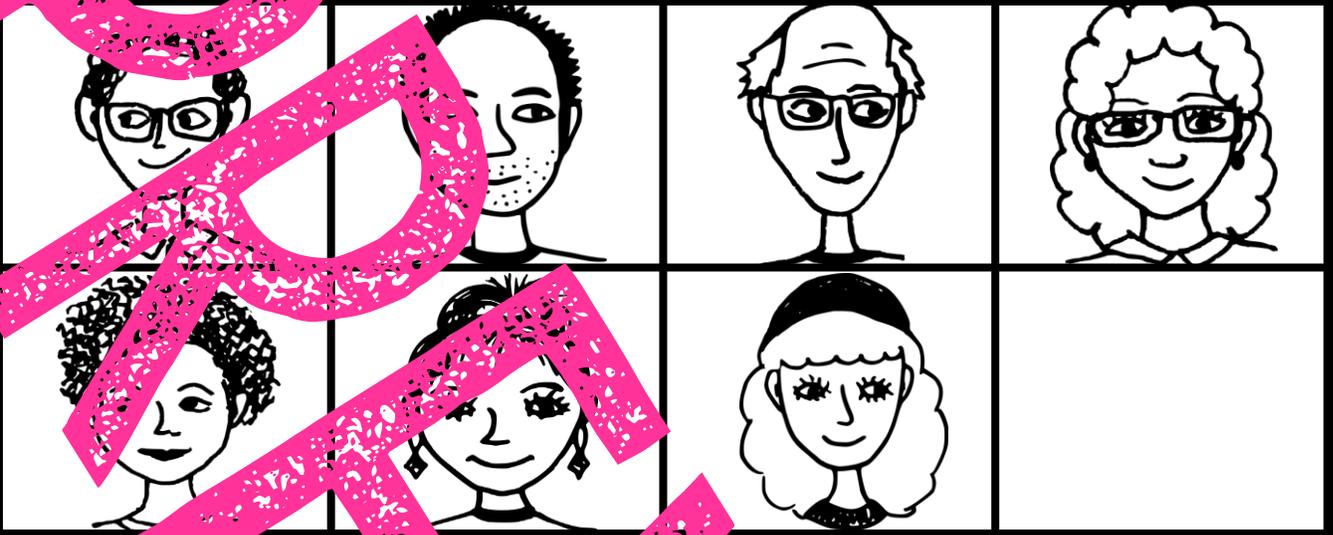


Legislative

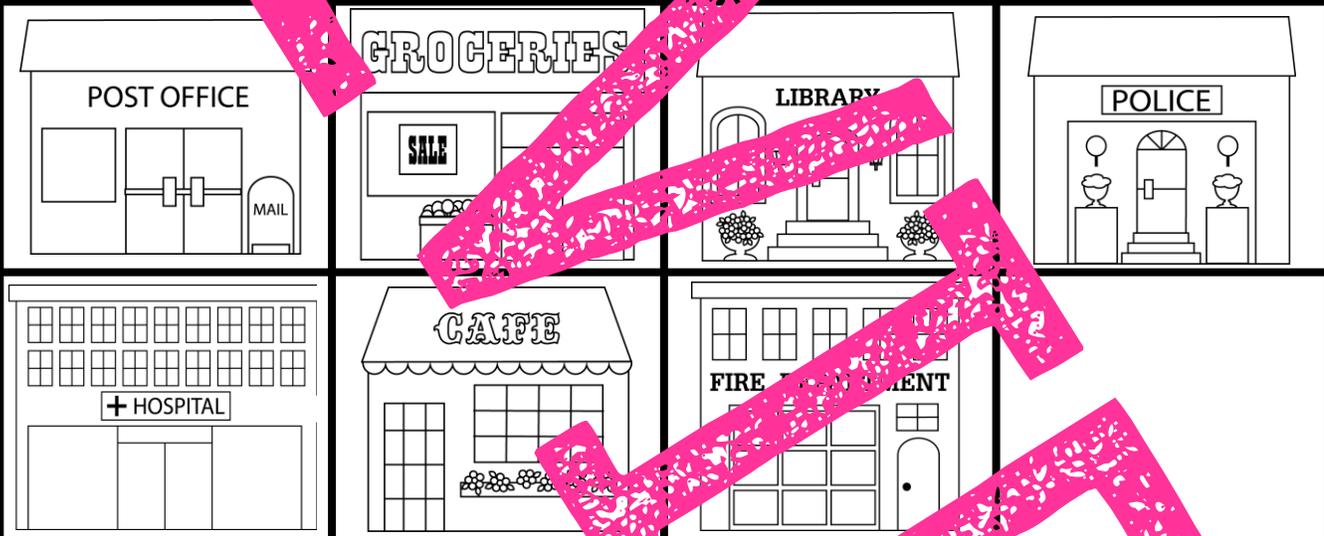
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

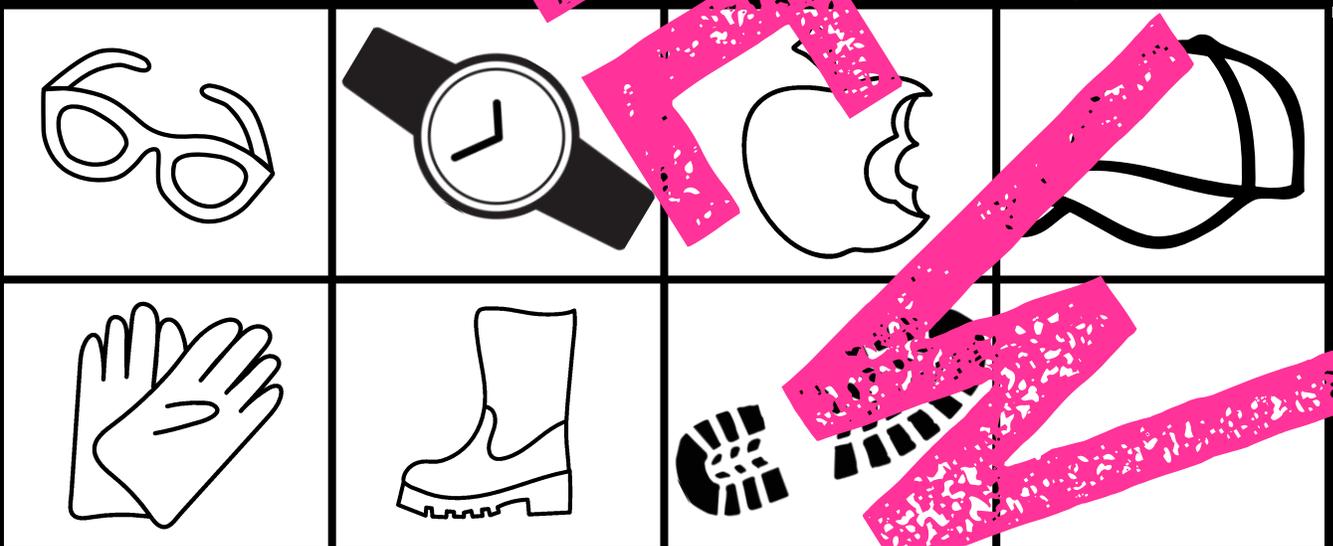
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

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