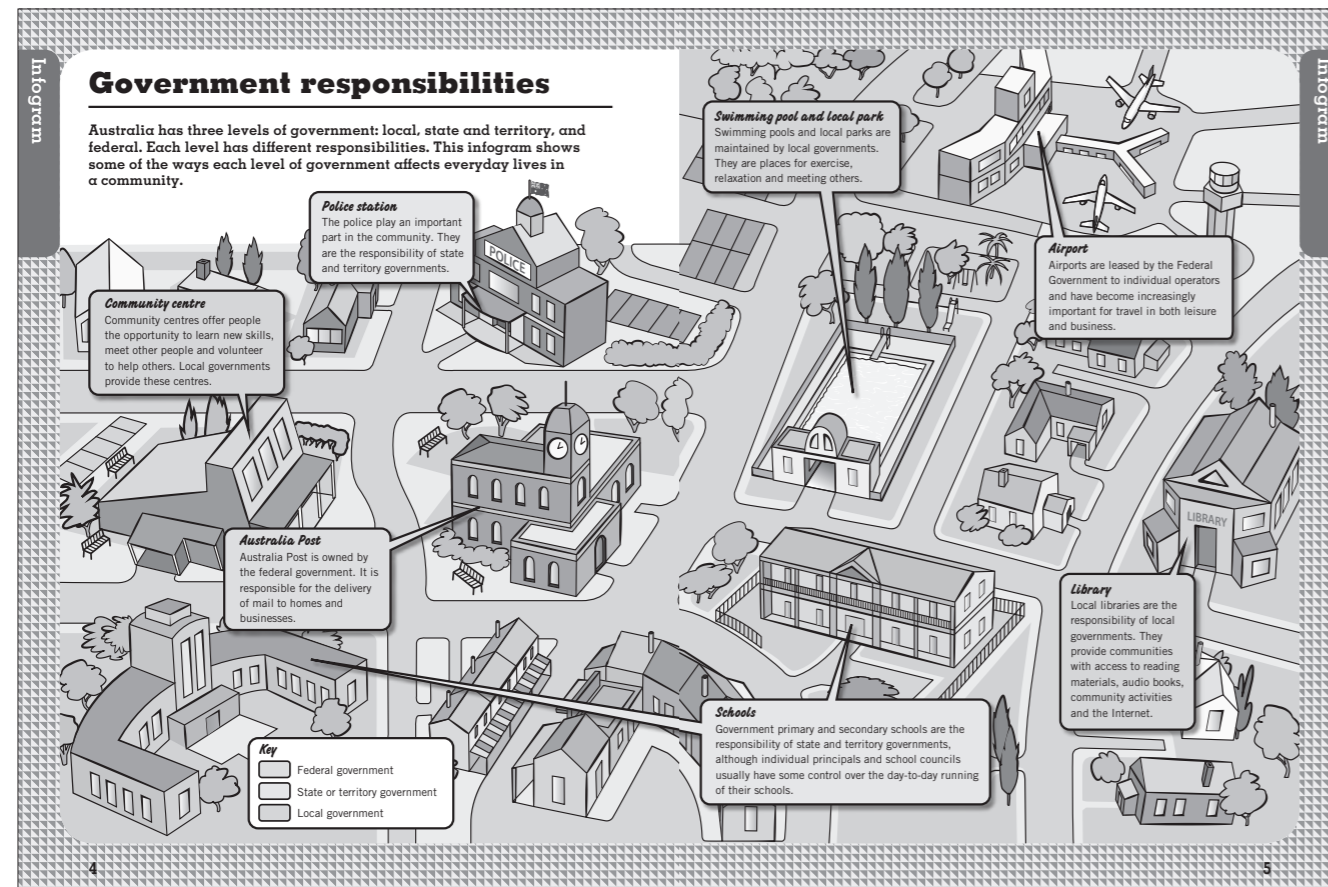


Government responsibilities



Fact file

'Government responsibilities' is an information text written as an *infogram*. It provides visual and written information about some of the responsibilities of the three levels of government within a local community, including education, leisure and law and order. The information about the local community is colour coded to indicate which level of government is responsible for each aspect of the community.

About the infogram

Purpose

An infogram is an informative text that provides visual and written information about a topic.

Structure

- Title
- Opening statement

- Headings
- Visual text
- Text boxes

Language features

- Third person
- Present tense
- Precise sentences
- Descriptive vocabulary
- Specialised vocabulary
- Nominalisation – verbs turned into nouns, e.g. *delivery*

Tuning in

- What are some of the services and facilities you use in your community?

Have small groups brainstorm community services and facilities and indicate which level of government is responsible for each.

Look at the heading of the text. Discuss the term 'responsibilities' as a class.

- Why do different governments have different responsibilities?

Ask each group to discuss this question and then record a response.

Look within the text

Read the opening paragraph to students.

Point out the key and ask three students to each name a level of government in the key and to locate its services and facilities (i.e. read the text box headings).

Have students read the rest of the text with a partner. Encourage them to use contextual clues to work out any unfamiliar words and to discuss these words with their partner.

Finding and applying information

Direct students to look at the information provided in the key.

- Why do you think the author included a key?
- How does the colour coding help?
- What other information does the map provide?
- Do you think the map makes the information easier to learn about and remember, or more difficult?
- What other services or facilities could be included on the map?

Summarising

Use a Y-chart to record the responsibilities for each of the levels of government in this community. Include some symbols or diagrams for each. Discuss how the use of key words and symbols can help with retention of and access to information.

Explore the text

Make connections

Ask students about their experiences with each of the services or facilities highlighted on the map.

- Which places or services do you use the most?
- Which places or services do you think are most important to a community? Which level of government do you think is responsible for these?

Have students rank the services and facilities in order of importance to themselves. Ask them to explain their rankings to other students and compare them in groups.

- Would anyone like to change their rankings after having discussed these with their partner? If so, why?

Ask students to think about responsibilities they have within their own families and households or the classroom.

- Why is it important to have responsibilities?
- Why is it important to make sure responsibilities are carried out?
- What important skills do you learn when you are responsible for something?

Synthesis

Ask students to create either a two- or three-dimensional map of their own community, with a key showing which level of government is responsible for the main features on the map.

- Do any of the levels of responsibility surprise you? If so, why?

Draw conclusions

Ask students to think about the different types of responsibilities each level of government has.

- Why are there three levels of government in Australia?
- Do you think it is important to allocate different responsibilities to each level of government?
- Do you think the responsibilities should be organised differently? Why or why not?

Learn about the text

Analyse

- What are the features of this text type?
- Do you think it is helpful to have visual information as well as written information?
- Can the information be located quickly and easily?
- What other details could be added or improvements made to this infogram?
- Do you think this infogram reflects a typical Australian local community? Why or why not?
- Would an infogram for a city look different to an infogram for a rural community? How?
- What might happen if one level of government wasn't working effectively?