

Guided Questions with Answers

Directions: Discuss the following questions.

1. What do the two different color labels on the buildings and structures in our community have in common?
One color represents privately owned businesses and one color represents things provided by the government.
2. Who provides our community with the greater number of goods and services we want?
Private businesses
3. What goods and services are provided by the privately-owned businesses?
Ex. movies, videos, sporting equipment, haircuts, food, clean clothes, cars, pets, apartments, banking services, entertainment, dental care, coats, groceries, school supplies, gasoline, newspaper
Point out that businesses sell these goods and services to consumers.
4. What goods and services does the government provide?
Ex. mail, postage stamps, road repairs, books, trash pickup, zoo, recycling collection, police protection, recreation, bridge, traffic light, street signs
Point out that the government collects taxes from people and businesses in the community to be able to pay for these goods and services.

Directions: Reinforce the concept of government goods and services using the example of cleaning the classroom. Point out the mess in the classroom from the activity. Discuss the following questions.

1. Is it fair for one person to clean up the room while the rest of us go out to play? No. Why not?
The mess was made by many students.
2. Who should clean up the mess?
Students might suggest those who made the mess or taking turns.
3. What might happen if we ask everyone to clean up the room voluntarily?
Some would and some wouldn't. Those who do not volunteer would benefit because other students would clean the room. Is this fair? No, some students benefit and don't do any work.
4. What happens when people make a mess in our parks?
City workers clean it up.

Goods and Services: Some are Private, Some are Not

5. Who pays for the goods and services bought from private businesses such as a fast food restaurant, movie theater, or grocery store?

Ex. consumers, such as the students and their parents

6. Who pays for the goods and services provided by the government?

(If students do not know, tell them that people and businesses pay taxes which are used to provide these services.)

Explain that taxes are monies paid by people to the government. Government uses these monies to pay for goods and services it provides. Tell students that sometimes fees such as bridge and highway tolls and entrance fees to public parks also pay for these goods and services.

Directions: Discuss the following questions.

1. What are some types of taxes?

Ex. sales, property, income

2. Why does government provide certain goods and services?

Consumers want these goods and services and feel they are so important they should be made available to everyone. These include such things as national defense, education, and highways.

3. If consumers want these goods and services, why won't private businesses provide them?

Private businesses will not offer these goods and services because once they are produced, some people will benefit even if they did not pay for the good or service.

4. Refer back to the example of cleaning up the classroom, pointing out that everyone benefits even if only a few voluntarily clean up the mess. Ask students for examples of goods or services from their community where everyone benefits.

Ex. street lights, traffic lights, police protection