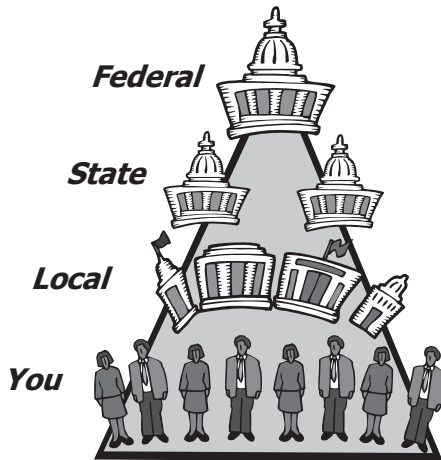


# On the Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who's Got the Power?

Can you name the President of the United States? Can you name the governor of your state? Can you name the mayor of your town? Easy! But can you describe the different powers held by each of these individuals? Powers are the duties and roles given to a person in office.



## Government on Three Levels

**Federalism** is the division of power among a central government and smaller regional governments. In the United States, we have a central government known as the federal government. The federal government deals with issues that affect the entire country. Each state also has its own state government that only handles the affairs of that state. Finally, there are local governments in places like towns, counties, and cities. These are the governments closest to you. They deal with issues that must be handled locally, such as maintaining roads and bridges.

## Fighting for Control

The founders of our country divided power between the federal government and the state and local governments because they were afraid of a federal government that had too much control. When our founders were writing the Constitution, the country was recovering from the Revolutionary War. In that war, the colonists had rebelled against a strong central government and won their freedom.



American colonists fight for their freedom

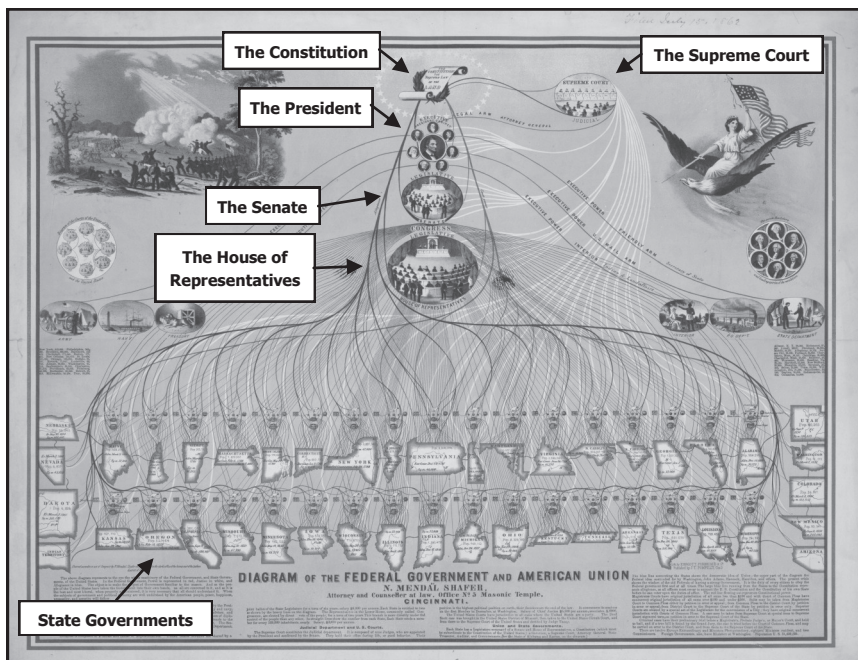


Diagram of federalism from 1862

## Spread It Around

To avoid creating a new government that would be just as controlling as the old one, the founders wrote the Constitution to include the principle of federalism. First, the Constitution created a central federal government with powers that are outlined very clearly. Second, the Constitution says that any power not given to the federal government is a power the states have. This included the states' ability to develop their own local governments.

## Federal Powers

The Constitution assigns, or **delegates**, specific powers to the federal government. There are three types of delegated powers, and they are the only powers that the federal government holds. **Expressed** powers are listed clearly in the Constitution. They include the power to print money or declare war. **Implied** powers are not written out clearly in the Constitution. Instead, the Constitution gives the federal government the power to make laws that are "necessary and proper" for carrying out the expressed powers. For example, the Constitution expressly gives the federal government the power to establish post offices, but it does not expressly give the power to print postage stamps. Postage stamps are a "necessary and proper" part of running a post office, however, so the federal government has the power to print them. Finally, **inherent** powers are not listed in the Constitution but are necessary for the federal government to function. The Constitution doesn't talk about immigration or international relations, but the government still has to act on these items. It is understood that the federal government must play a role in these areas.



### Expressed:

Take a *look* at the Constitution... it's there!

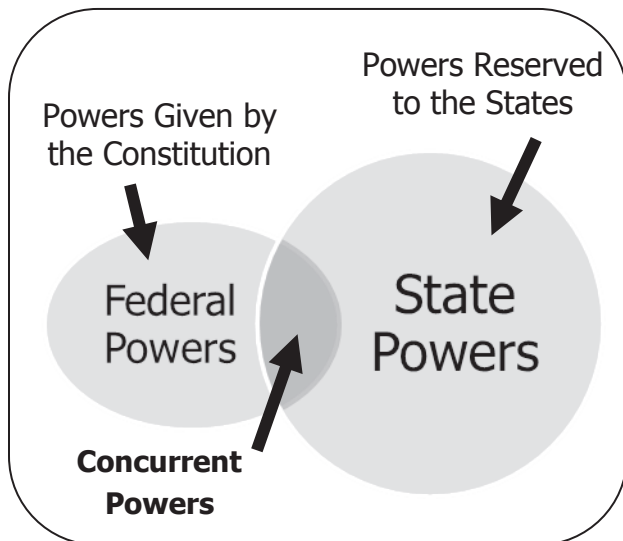
### Implied:

*Think* about the Constitution... it's necessary and proper!



### Inherent:

*Consider* what the Constitution was trying to establish... it's essential!



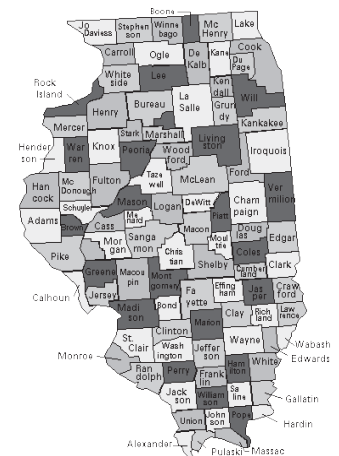
## State Powers

The Constitution does not delegate any specific powers to the states. There is no list of "state powers." Instead, any power the Constitution does not give to the federal government is reserved to the states. The Constitution does **deny** powers to the states, meaning there is a listing of things that they *can't* do. This may sound like the states don't have much power, but **reserved** powers are actually very broad. The Constitution says nothing about many important powers, such as public safety, health, education, licenses, and many other things! All of these powers are reserved to the states. Some state powers do overlap with the federal government, and these are called **concurrent** powers.

## Local Powers

The Constitution says nothing about local governments. That's because the principle of federalism created by the Constitution has only two levels: the national and the state level. The power to create local governments is a power reserved to the *states*. Local governments get their power from the state where they are located, and each state gives slightly different powers to its local governments. Counties, cities, towns, townships, boroughs, and parishes are all types of local government.

Usually, the state will make broad laws about things like public safety, health, and education. Then it gives local governments the power to make more detailed laws about these issues or to decide how these laws will be carried out.



Counties in the state of Illinois

# On the Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Federalism is...

The founders \_\_\_\_\_ the power between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ because they were \_\_\_\_\_ of a federal government that had too much \_\_\_\_\_.

**Federal Government:** The constitution \_\_\_\_\_ specific powers to the national, or federal government.

**Expressed powers are...**

**Implied powers are...**

**Inherent powers are...**

Define:

**State Government:** The U.S. Constitution does \_\_\_\_\_ delegate any specific powers to the states. Any powers not given to the \_\_\_\_\_ government and not denied, are given to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Reserved powers are...**

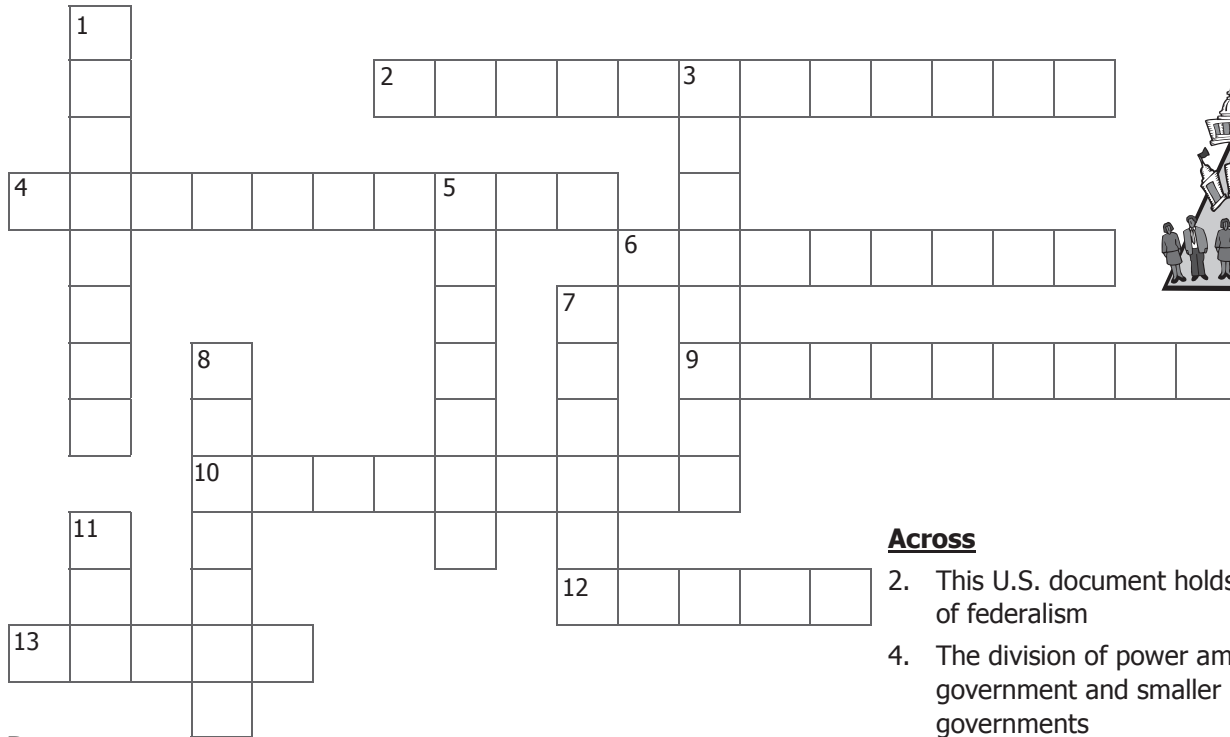
**Denied powers are...**

Define:

**Local Government:** Local government is \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, and local governments get all their power from the \_\_\_\_\_. Every state's constitution is slightly \_\_\_\_\_, so each state government is slightly \_\_\_\_\_.

# On the Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Down

1. This word means "to assign"
3. The federal government has these powers because it is a sovereign state that engages with other sovereign states
5. The federal government has these powers because they need them to carry out their expressed powers
7. Expressed, inherent, implied, and reserved are all types of these
8. This level of government is delegated powers by the Constitution
11. The Constitution only establishes this many levels of government

## Across

2. This U.S. document holds the concept of federalism
4. The division of power among a central government and smaller regional governments
6. These powers are given to the states
9. Federal powers listed in the Constitution
10. Each state's system of local government is slightly \_\_\_\_\_
12. The Constitution doesn't delegate any specific powers to this level of government
13. This level of government gets its powers from state constitutions

**Strengths and Weaknesses.** Read each description of federalism. Does it describe a *strength* or a *weakness* of federalism? Label each line with an *S* for strength or *W* for weakness.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sometimes there are disagreements over who is responsible for a particular issue. This creates a situation where the state or national government can blame each other for failings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Federalism allows policy to be customized to meet the particular needs of certain areas and communities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. People are citizens of local, state, and federal governments. This allows them to participate democratically on multiple levels through elections. Local government allows citizens to engage their government directly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Competition between state and local governments to draw in the most tax-paying citizens drives the creation of better services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Each level of government keeps the other levels of government in check. This way, no one branch of the government can become too powerful.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When different levels of government provide the same service, the delivery of that service is sometimes not as coordinated and efficient as possible.

# On the Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Powers.** Match the expressed power from the U.S. Constitution to news headlines. (They loved to capitalize things back in the 1700s!)



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>_____ 1. "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States..."</p> <p>_____ 2. "The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases ... arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made ... under their Authority..."</p> <p>_____ 3. "Congress shall have the power to...coin Money ... and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures..."</p> <p>_____ 4. "...he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States."</p> <p>_____ 5. "...to exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may... become the Seat of the Government of the United States..."</p> | <p>A. President Orders Executive Branch to Carry Out New Law</p> <p>B. Congress Says: Print More \$2 Bills!</p> <p>C. Man Says Law is Unconstitutional; Supreme Court Hears Case</p> <p>D. Congress Restricts Handguns in the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital</p> <p>E. President Decides to Bring Troops Home!</p> |
|--|--|

<b>Power</b>	<b>Denied or Shared?</b>	<b>What's the Problem?</b>
<b>Coin Money</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Denied</b> to the states <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shared</b> with the fed. gov't	If each state could coin money, then...
<b>Collect Taxes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Denied</b> to the states <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shared</b> with the fed. gov't	If states could not collect any taxes, then...
<b>Make and Enforce Laws</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Denied</b> to the states <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shared</b> with the fed. gov't	If states could not make and enforce laws, then...
<b>Keep Troops during Peace Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Denied</b> to the states <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shared</b> with the fed. gov't	If states could have their own troops, then...
<b>Establish Courts</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Denied</b> to the states <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shared</b> with the fed. gov't	If states could not establish courts, then...

# On the Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**State or Local?** Some laws are intended to apply to everyone in an entire state, while other laws make more sense applied to a smaller, local area. Can you tell which is which? Read each law below and decide whether it sounds like a state law or a local ordinance (law), rule, or policy.

1) No one living in the area may breed livestock of any kind.

LOCAL or  STATE

2) It is unlawful to turn water service on or off without approval.

LOCAL or  STATE

3) Every child between ages 6 and 16 must attend a school or be homeschooled.

LOCAL or  STATE

4) Temporary structures such as circus tents may not be put up without approval.

LOCAL or  STATE

5) A person between ages 16 and 18 must have a parent's permission in order to get married.

LOCAL or  STATE

6) It is against the law to change or destroy any sidewalks without first receiving approval.

LOCAL or  STATE

7) At any time between sunset and sunrise, vehicles on the road must have their headlights on.

LOCAL or  STATE

8) All sidewalks, buildings, fences, signs, and other surfaces must be kept free from graffiti.

LOCAL or  STATE

9) Elementary school begins at 8:30 a.m. and the middle and high school begins at 7:30 a.m.

LOCAL or  STATE

10) It is unlawful to take, injure, or harass any bird upon its nest, except in agriculture.

LOCAL or  STATE

**Local Services.** Local officials are responsible for carrying out local laws. But who does what? Match these local officials with the services they are responsible for.

**district attorney**  
**elections supervisor**  
**recorder/clerk**  
**engineer**  
**chief of police**

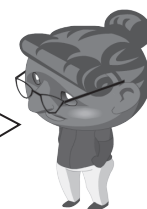
I'm responsible for keeping people safe by enforcing laws. I'm the local \_\_\_\_\_.



I'm responsible for organizing elections for our local district. I'm the local \_\_\_\_\_.



I'm responsible for making sure criminals are prosecuted for their crimes. I'm the local \_\_\_\_\_.



I keep track of all the records for people in our community. I'm the local \_\_\_\_\_.



I'm responsible for managing public buildings and structures. I'm the local \_\_\_\_\_.

