

Divided Up

The relationship between federal and state governments

Benchmark: SS.7.C.3.4 Identify the relationship and division of powers between the federal government and state governments.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will define the system of federalism.
- Students will analyze how federalism limits government power.
- Students will compare concurrent powers, enumerated powers, reserved powers, and delegated powers as they relate to state and federal government.
- Students will analyze the issues related to the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- PowerPoint
- Projector
- Speakers
- Handout A: Dividing It Up
- Copies of the U.S. Constitution
- Chart Paper
- Markers

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Warm Up Using the “Divided Up” PowerPoint, have students describe the picture in the first slide. Students should analyze how power is shared between the central government and state/regional governments.

View the Center on Congress’ Facts of Congress video about Federalism. Review the definition of federalism with students and have students draw the three layer cake example of federalism from the video. Tell students that this system of power sharing between central and state/regional governments prevents any one level of government from becoming too powerful. They share powers, have powers of their own listed in the Constitution, and there are powers that are reserved to the States and the people.

Distribute Handout A. Students should complete the handout as the PowerPoint progresses with a definition, illustration, and examples.

Discuss delegated/expressed/enumerated powers. After discussing the definition, have students work in small groups to find powers that are expressly listed/outlined in the United States Constitution. Have each group share 2-3 powers they found listed in the Constitution. The PowerPoint will also provide examples. *Students should write the definition, draw an illustration, and list examples on their handout.*

Discuss reserved powers. Have a student read Amendment 10 aloud to the class. Explain to students that this amendment means if a power is not given to the Federal government or denied to the states, that power belongs to the State or the people. *Students should write the definition, draw an illustration, and list examples on their handout.*

Discuss concurrent powers. Concurrent powers are those shared by the federal and state government. Have students think of some examples of concurrent powers (ex: taxes, making laws). *Students should write the definition, draw an illustration, and list examples on their handout.*

Discuss the hierarchy of law. Show students how different laws “stack” in the hierarchy of law, from local ordinances up to the United States Constitution. Explain that the Constitution is the highest law in the land based on Article VI of the Constitution which is known as the “Supremacy Clause”.

Extension Activity:

- Divide the class into 5 groups. Distribute a piece of chart paper and markers to each group.
- Assign small groups one of the levels of law (ordinances, statutes, Florida Constitution, acts, U.S. Constitution). Have students illustrate their level of law; students should only use pictures and not words. Students may want to research specific ordinances/laws/acts/constitutional provisions for illustrative purposes.
- Collect and redistribute the illustrations. Have the groups work together to identify the level of law and place them in the correct hierarchy.

Dividing It Up

Directions: Using your list of government services compiled from the Center on Congress' Impact of Congress module, classify the government services by local, state, and federal government in the chart below. Place an asterisk (*) next to any services that are shared by the different levels of government.

Delegated/Enumerated/ Expressed	Reserved Powers	Concurrent Powers
Definition		
Illustration		
Examples		