

How Does Government Affect Me?

<http://pbskids.org/democracy/my-government/>

	Local	State	Federal
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide _____ for schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide a certain amount of _____ for each _____ a school has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide money for special _____ like computers
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for local roads * clean up after _____ * some cities build subway & _____ systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for highways * the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) makes sure speed _____ signs are put up and that cars have _____ and air _____.
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * preserve historical documents & _____ important to the area * offer special _____, lectures, & voter registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * keep records & documents about state _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the unofficial national library is called the Library of _____ * it is the _____ library in the world
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * enforce _____ in cities & towns * give traffic tickets, investigate _____ & keep the community safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * patrol _____ * make sure people obey speed limits & investigate auto accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * enforce _____ at the federal level * FBI investigates crimes within the United States
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * local parks have playgrounds, sports _____, & pools * offer safe places to _____ outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * protect _____ places & outdoor areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * preserves historical places, _____, & special natural resources like _____ & mountains * Grand Canyon & _____ stone

The people in our country have given the government the power to carry out the work that was shown in the town we visited on the website such as creating schools, building parks, and making laws. In our system of government, the people have the power, but agreed through the Constitution to give some powers to the federal (national) government. Some of those powers given to the federal government are also shared with state governments. Powers not given to the federal government in the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people.

* Why do you think all the powers weren't just given to the federal government since it looks out for all the people in our country? _____

* What is an example of a power you think only the federal government should have? _____

* What is an example of a power you think only the states should have? _____

* What kind of power do you think they should share? _____

* What do you think is the main purpose of this system of granting, reserving, and sharing power? _____

Venn Diagram Questions

* What problems could happen if each state printed its own money? _____

* Why do you think only the federal government was given the power to declare war? _____

* What might happen if only the federal government could tax the people? _____

* What might happen if each state could run their own post office and make their own stamps? _____

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	Local	State	Federal
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide <u>money</u> for schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide a certain amount of <u>money</u> for each <u>student</u> a school has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide money for <u>special projects</u> like computers
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for local roads * clean up after <u>storms</u> * some cities build sub-way & <u>bus</u> systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for <u>highways</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pay for highways * the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) makes sure speed <u>limit</u> signs are put up and that cars have <u>seat belts</u> and air <u>bags</u>.
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * preserve historical documents & <u>books</u> important to the area * offer special <u>classes</u>, lectures, & voter registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * keep records & documents about state <u>history</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the unofficial national library is called the Library of <u>Congress</u> * it is the <u>largest</u> library in the world
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * enforce <u>laws</u> in cities & towns * give traffic tickets, investigate <u>crimes</u> & keep the community safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * patrol <u>highways</u> * make sure people obey speed limits & investigate auto accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * enforce <u>laws</u> at the federal level * FBI investigates crimes within the United States
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * local parks have play-grounds, sports <u>fields</u>, & pools * offer safe places to <u>play</u> outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * protect <u>historic</u> places & outdoor areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * preserves historical places, <u>monuments</u>, & special natural resources like <u>forests</u> & mountains * Grand Canyon & <u>Yellowstone</u>

The people in our country have given the government the power to carry out the work that was shown in the town we visited on the website such as creating schools, building parks, and making laws. In our system of government, the people have the power, but agreed through the Constitution to give some powers to the federal (national) government. Some of those powers given to the federal government are also shared with state governments. Powers not given to the federal government in the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people.

* Why do you think all the powers weren't just given to the federal government since it looks out for all the people in our country? I think the Founders wanted to make sure that the federal government wasn't too powerful. They wanted to make sure that each state kept some powers to balance things out.

* What is an example of a power you think only the federal government should have? I think only the federal government should have the power to fight a war with another country.

* What is an example of a power you think only the states should have? I think only the states should have the power to create school systems.

* What kind of power do you think they should share? I think they should both be able to collect taxes to support the governments.

* What do you think is the main purpose of this system of granting, reserving, and sharing power? I think the main purpose of this system is to make sure that the powers are balanced and that the federal government doesn't become too strong.

Venn Diagram Questions

* What problems could happen if each state printed its own money? If each state printed its own money it could be difficult to travel from state to state and buy things. Some states might not accept the money from another state.

* Why do you think only the federal government was given the power to declare war? I think only the federal government was given the power to declare war because it wouldn't be good if an individual state could go to war against another country.

* What might happen if only the federal government could tax the people? If only the federal government could tax the people then the state governments wouldn't have any money to provide for the services that they are responsible for.

* What might happen if each state could run their own post office and make their own stamps? If each state could run their own post office and make their own stamps, mail might not travel from state to state efficiently. Some state post offices might not accept the stamps from other states. Mail might get lost if they didn't all follow the same rules.

Placement on Venn Diagram

Federal Government

- * declaring war
- * operating post offices
- * printing money
- * maintaining an army
- * handling trade with other countries
- * making treaties with other countries

Both

- * collecting taxes
- * borrowing money
- * making laws
- * providing for the welfare of people

State Government

- * creating public schools
- * handling trade within a state
- * making marriage laws
- * issuing drivers' licenses
- * establishing local governments