

On the Level

Name: _____

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.

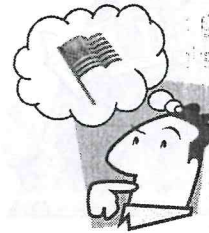
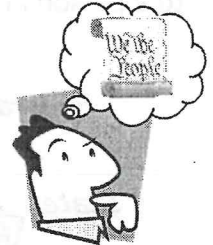


Expressed:

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

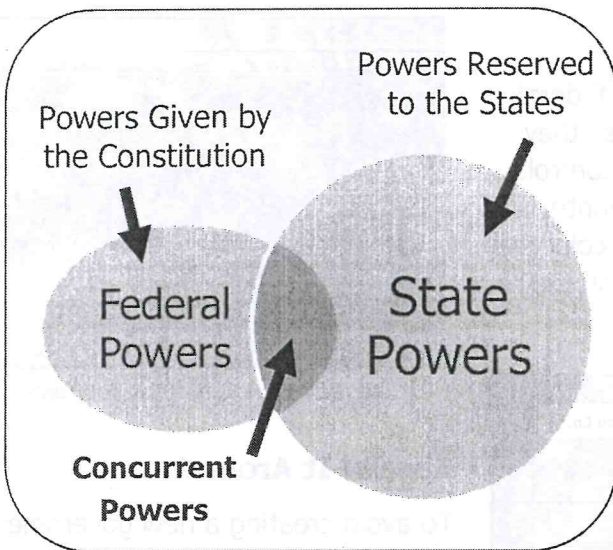
Implied:

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



Inherent:

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



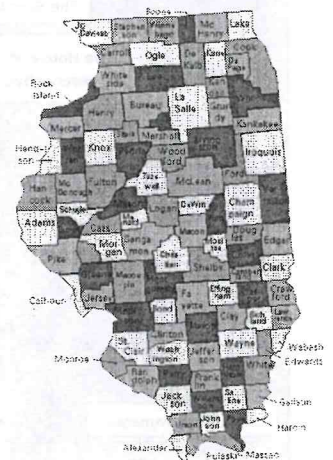
State Powers

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.



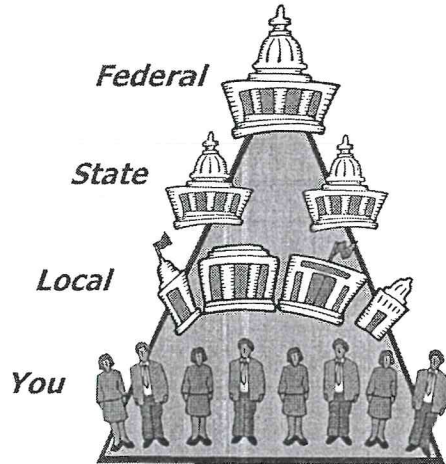
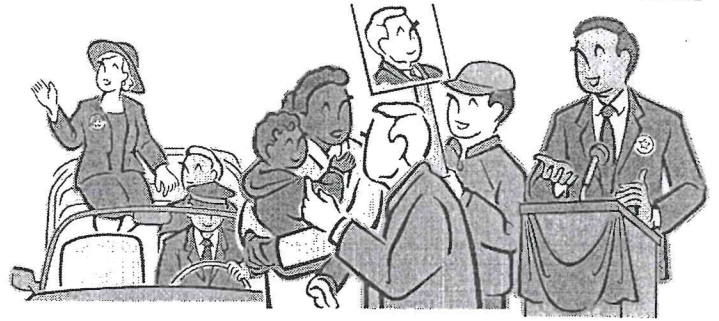
Counties in the state of Illinois

On the Level

Name: _____

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.

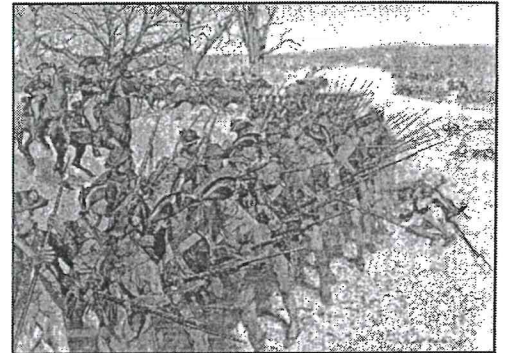


Government on Three Levels

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

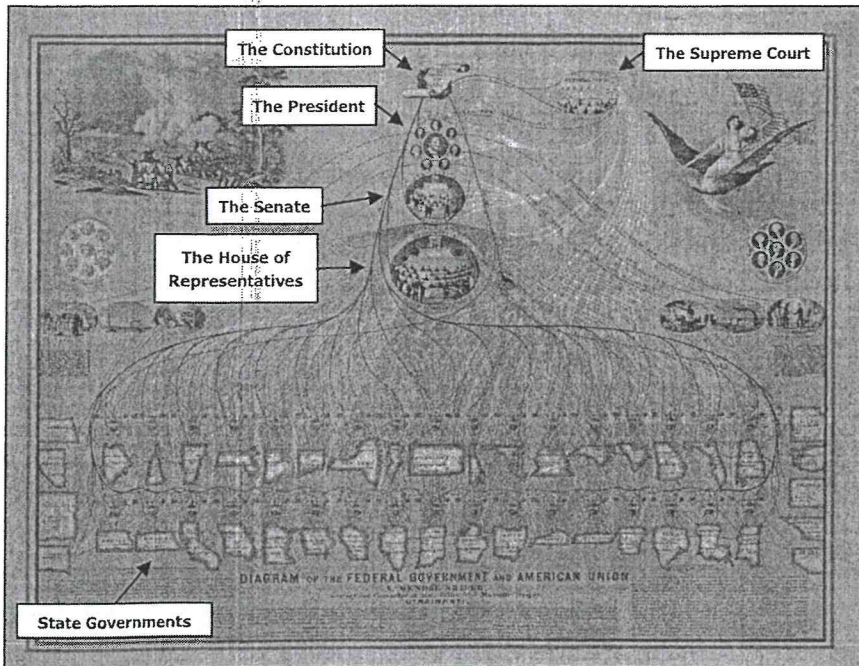


Diagram of federalism from 1862

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.