**Federalism**

**Directions:** Draw a picture to represent each level of government below.

| **Term** | **Definition** | **Visual Representation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **National**  **Government** | the organization through which political authority is exercised at the national level, government of the United States |  |
| **State Government** | the organization through which political authority is exercised at the state level, government of a specific state |  |
| **Local Government** | the governing body of a municipality or county |  |







**State**

**Constitution**

**Directions:** Read the section below. Highlight all of the information that relates to national powers in YELLOW. Highlight the information that relates to state powers in ORANGE. Highlight information about how the powers that are split by the state and national government in GREEN. Highlight information about local government powers in BLUE.

**Federalism is a system of government where power is divided and shared between the national (federal) government, the state governments and the local governments.**

Federalism is found in the U.S. Constitution. In the Constitution, there are powers specifically listed for the national government and an amendment about state government powers. Powers set aside specifically for the national government are called enumerated or delegated powers. Powers for each branch of the national government are located in Articles I, II, and III. Powers for state governments are called reserved powers and are listed in the Tenth Amendment. Some powers belong to both the national and state governments. These powers are called concurrent powers. Local governments get their powers from state constitutions. The Florida Constitution outlines the organization and powers of county and city governments.

The powers of each level of government relates to the types of issues each level deals with. The national government has the power to handle issues the entire nation is concerned about. The state governments have the power to handle issues that concern citizens of particular states. Similarly, local governments have the power to address issues that concern citizens in towns, cities and counties.

| **Type of Power** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Enumerated or Delegated Powers** | powers specifically listed in the U.S. Constitution for the national government only | 1. The power to raise and support an army and navy. 2. The power to coin money. 3. The power to declare war. 4. The power to conduct foreign policy. 5. The power to regulate trade between states and internationally. |
| **Reserved Powers** | powers that are given to the states by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution | 1. The power to run elections. 2. The power to set up and run schools. 3. The power to establish local governments 4. The power to regulate business in the state. |
| **Concurrent Powers** | powers shared by the national and state governments | 1. The power to levy taxes (tax the people). 2. The power to establish courts. 3. The ability to borrow money. |
| **Local Government Powers** | powers given to towns, cities and counties by the Florida Constitution | 1. The power to create speed limits. 2. The power to protect citizens from crime. 3. The power to provide services related to garbage, sewage, fire protection, and traffic control. |

**Directions:**  Read the paragraphs below to be able to best answer the question below. Highlight the information that helped you answer the question.

Before the U.S. Constitution, the United States had the Articles of Confederation and was organized with a confederal system. A confederal system is a system of government where power is held by independent states and there is little power in the federal (national) government. The U.S. Constitution was written because of concerns about the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. The national government had very little power and the states acted as independent nations with too much power. Government power was unbalanced and there was no sense of national unity (togetherness).

To solve these problems, the U.S. Constitution was written and the United States moved from a confederal system to a system of federalism. The Founding Fathers had big goals. They needed to limit state power because states had too much power under the Articles of Confederation. They also needed to create a national government with limited power. As a solution, the Founding Fathers created a system of federalism. This means that power is shared between the national, state, and local governments. The national government has its own powers, shares some powers with the states, and gives states some of their own powers. By dividing power between different levels, this limits the power of each level of government and one level of government cannot become too powerful.

**How does federalism limit government power?**

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Adapted from: Ben’s Guide to Government for Kids - <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/journeyperson-federal-versus-state-government>