

Two Levels, One Country

Read how state and national governments share power.

SS.5.CG.3.6 "Explain the relationship between the state and national governments."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the phrases "coin money," "run public schools," and "Collecting taxes" to mark powers held at different levels, then put a star beside the sentence that begins, "In a conflict."

Working at Two Levels

- ① In the United States, national and state governments share power. Local governments also serve communities. The national government serves people across the whole country. Each state government serves people in one state. The Constitution divides powers between these levels. This division lets national leaders handle countrywide needs while state leaders can respond to needs closer to home. The two levels are connected, but each has important jobs.
- ② For example, the national government can coin money and make rules for trade between states. A state government can run public schools, issue driver's licenses, and set rules for many local matters. These powers fit different needs. National leaders can address problems that cross state borders. State leaders can make choices for people in their own state.
- ③ Some powers are shared. Collecting taxes is one shared power, so each level may collect taxes for its own work. Sometimes national and state laws deal with the same topic. In a conflict, a valid national law made under the Constitution takes priority over state law. A state cannot override that valid national law. This rule helps the levels work together under one Constitution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is the area served by the national government different from the area served by a state government?

2 Name one power of the national government and one power of a state government from the passage.

3 What is one power shared by both levels of government?

4 What happens when a state law conflicts with a valid national law made under the Constitution?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A rule affects buses traveling across several states, and a state wants rules for bus stops near schools. Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining one job for the national government, one job for the state government, and which rule would be followed if the rules conflicted.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the phrases “coin money,” “run public schools,” and “Collecting taxes” to mark powers held at different levels, then put a star beside the sentence that begins, “In a conflict.” Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the area served by the national government different from the area served by a state government?	The national government serves the whole country. A state government serves one state.
2	Name one power of the national government and one power of a state government from the passage.	National government: coin money or make trade rules between states. State government: run public schools, issue driver's licenses, or set local rules.
3	What is one power shared by both levels of government?	Both levels can collect taxes.
4	What happens when a state law conflicts with a valid national law made under the Constitution?	The valid national law takes priority; the state cannot override it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The national government could make safety rules for buses traveling between states. The state government could set rules for bus stops near schools in its state. If the rules conflicted, a valid national rule made under the Constitution would take priority.

Accept accurate examples of national, state, and shared powers supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a reasonable division of jobs and the qualification that a valid national law made under the Constitution takes priority when laws conflict.