

Power Partners

Find how government powers are divided and shared.

SS4CG1.c "The federal system of government in the U.S. (federal powers, state powers, and shared powers)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each government job in the passage. Write F for a federal power, S for a state power, or SH for a shared power beside each underlined job.

Three Kinds of Power

- ① The United States uses a federal system. This means power is divided between the national government, often called the federal government, and the governments of the states. The Constitution gives some jobs to the federal government. These jobs need one plan for the whole country. For example, the federal government can make money, deliver mail, and make treaties with other countries.
- ② State governments have powers of their own. A state can set rules for its public schools, issue driver's licenses, and organize local governments. These decisions can fit the needs of people in that state. A rule about school attendance in one state may not be exactly the same as a rule in another state. States cannot make treaties or print U.S. money.
- ③ Some powers are shared, which means both the federal government and state governments may use them. Both can collect taxes to pay for services. Both can make laws, create courts, and borrow money. Sometimes the two levels work together. Federal money may help a state repair a highway, while the state plans the project and follows its own rules.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Which level of government has the power to make treaties with other countries?

2

Why does the passage say some jobs belong to the federal government?

3

Name one power that belongs to state governments and explain how it can fit a state's needs.

4

Name one shared power. What does shared mean in this system?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the table with three government jobs that are not named in the passage. Give one federal power, one state power, and one shared power, then explain why each job fits that level.

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	GOVERNMENT JOB	WHY IT FITS

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each government job in the passage. Write F for a federal power, S for a state power, or SH for a shared power beside each underlined job. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which level of government has the power to make treaties with other countries?	The federal government.
2	Why does the passage say some jobs belong to the federal government?	They need one plan for the whole country.
3	Name one power that belongs to state governments and explain how it can fit a state's needs.	Answers may include setting rules for public schools, issuing driver's licenses, or organizing local governments. These choices can fit the needs of people in that state.
4	Name one shared power. What does shared mean in this system?	Answers may include collecting taxes, making laws, creating courts, or borrowing money. Shared means both federal and state governments may use the power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	GOVERNMENT JOB	WHY IT FITS
Federal	Declare war	The Constitution gives this power to the federal government.
State	License doctors	A state can make rules for people working in that state.
Shared	Charter banks	Both federal and state governments can charter banks.

Accept accurate examples that are not named in the passage and are correctly classified. For shared powers, accept jobs that both federal and state governments can legally perform, with a reasonable explanation.