Two Constitutions, Two Roles

Compare federal and Indiana powers in everyday life

8.C.3 "Compare and contrast the different functions of federal and state government within the federal system by analyzing the United States Constitution and the Indiana Constitution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a federal responsibility, circle an Indiana responsibility, and write 1 beside a sentence showing a power both governments have.

From the Post Office to School

1. An Indiana student mails a letter before walking to a public school. Those stops connect to two constitutions. Article I of the United States Constitution gives Congress power to establish post offices and post roads. Federal law under that power supports mail service across state lines. The U.S. Constitution does not assign Congress the job of running public schools. The Tenth Amendment reserves powers not given to the federal government, and not forbidden to states, to the states or the people.

2. Indiana's constitution gives a different assignment. Article 8 directs the state's General Assembly to provide a general and uniform system of common schools with tuition free and equally open to all. The General Assembly makes laws for Indiana, including laws that shape the state's public school system. Congress makes federal laws using powers granted by the U.S. Constitution, while Indiana lawmakers make state laws under their state constitution. A state school law applies within Indiana, but a federal postal law can apply throughout the country.

3. Both constitutions also give lawmakers a way to pay for public work. Article I of the U.S. Constitution lets Congress lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare. Article 10 of the Indiana Constitution requires the General Assembly to provide a uniform and equal rate of property assessment and taxation. Federal and state governments can both collect taxes, but they exercise different constitutional powers and serve different responsibilities. If an Indiana law conflicts with a valid federal law, the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause makes federal law controlling.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare who makes federal postal laws and Indiana school laws. How does the reach of those laws differ?

2. How are Congress's and Indiana's taxing powers alike? What difference in their constitutional rules does the passage describe?

3. Suppose an Indiana law conflicts with a valid federal postal law. Which law controls, and what part of the U.S. Constitution explains why?

4. Compare what the U.S. Constitution and the Indiana Constitution say about responsibility for public schools.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A storm damages a public school and interrupts mail delivery in an Indiana town. Write a four-sentence plan explaining which level of government should take the lead on each problem and one way each could raise money; cite a provision from each constitution.

ANSWER KEY

Two Constitutions, Two Roles

GRADE 8 · 8.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a federal responsibility, circle an Indiana responsibility, and write 1 beside a sentence showing a power both governments have. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare who makes federal postal laws and Indiana school laws. How does the reach of those laws differ?	**Congress makes federal postal laws, which can apply nationwide. Indiana's General Assembly makes state school laws, which apply within Indiana.**
2	How are Congress's and Indiana's taxing powers alike? What difference in their constitutional rules does the passage describe?	**Both can collect taxes. The U.S. Constitution lets Congress tax to provide for the general welfare, while Indiana's constitution requires a uniform and equal rate of property assessment and taxation.**
3	Suppose an Indiana law conflicts with a valid federal postal law. Which law controls, and what part of the U.S. Constitution explains why?	**The federal postal law controls under the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause.**
4	Compare what the U.S. Constitution and the Indiana Constitution say about responsibility for public schools.	**The U.S. Constitution does not assign Congress the job of running public schools, and the Tenth Amendment reserves powers not given to the federal government or forbidden to states. Indiana's Article 8 directs its General Assembly to provide a system of common schools.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indiana should lead the public school repair because Article 8 of its constitution requires a system of common schools. The state could use revenue from property taxation governed by Article 10. The federal government should lead the mail-service response because Article I of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress power to establish post offices and post roads. Congress could use its Article I taxing power to fund that work.

Accept plans that identify Indiana's constitutional responsibility for common schools and the federal postal power, with a constitutional basis for how each government could raise funds. Students need not claim that either constitution requires a particular storm-repair project.