Who Has Power?

Read a shipping story to trace shared government powers.

8.C.4.2.E "Describe the concept of federalism (shared power) and identify specific types of powers (e.g., express, concurrent, reserved) exercised by the state versus national government, providing contemporary examples."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains federalism, circle two national powers, and put a box around one state power. Write B beside two powers that both levels of government can use.

A Package Crosses State Lines

1 A package moves from a shop in Oregon to a buyer in Nevada. Which government has a say? In the United States, federalism divides power between the national government and state governments. Neither level handles every public problem alone. The Constitution grants some powers to the national government, while states keep other powers. In certain areas, both levels may act. This arrangement matters in everyday life: the rules behind shipping, driving, and paying taxes can come from different levels of government.

2 Express powers are powers the Constitution specifically gives to the national government. Congress can establish post offices and regulate commerce between states. For the Oregon shop, federal rules may govern goods sold across state lines, and the U.S. Postal Service can carry its package. Reserved powers belong to the states because the Constitution does not give them to the national government or forbid states from using them. A state issues driver's licenses, so Oregon sets the requirements for a delivery driver's license.

3 Concurrent powers can be used by both national and state governments. For example, both can collect taxes. The shop's owner might pay federal income tax and Oregon state income tax on the same year's earnings. Both levels can also create courts to settle disputes under their own laws. Sharing a type of power does not mean the two governments always make identical rules. When a valid federal law conflicts with a state law, federal law takes priority. To identify a power, ask who can use it: the national government, a state, or both.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The Oregon shop sells a package to someone in Nevada. Which type of power allows the national government to regulate this sale? Explain.

2. Oregon sets the requirements for a delivery driver's license. Which type of power is this, and which level of government uses it?

3. The shop's owner may pay both federal and Oregon income taxes. What type of power does this show? Explain your choice.

4. Compare the power to establish post offices with the power to create courts. Who can use each power?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a new situation involving a person who works in one state and travels to another. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain how one express, one reserved, and one concurrent power from the passage could affect that person, and why this shows federalism.

ANSWER KEY

Who Has Power?

GRADE 8 · 8.C.4.2.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains federalism, circle two national powers, and put a box around one state power. Write B beside two powers that both levels of government can use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The Oregon shop sells a package to someone in Nevada. Which type of power allows the national government to regulate this sale? Explain.	**It is an express power. The Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce between states.**
2	Oregon sets the requirements for a delivery driver's license. Which type of power is this, and which level of government uses it?	**Issuing driver's licenses is a reserved power used by state governments.**
3	The shop's owner may pay both federal and Oregon income taxes. What type of power does this show? Explain your choice.	**Taxing is a concurrent power because both the national government and states can collect taxes.**
4	Compare the power to establish post offices with the power to create courts. Who can use each power?	**Establishing post offices is an express national power. Creating courts is a concurrent power used by both national and state governments.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mina runs a food truck in Arizona and drives to New Mexico to sell lunch. The national government's express power to regulate commerce between states could affect her sales across the border. Arizona's reserved power to issue driver's licenses affects whether she can drive her truck. Under the concurrent power to tax, she may owe federal and state income taxes on her earnings. These different powers show federalism because national and state governments both shape her work.

Accept other original situations if each power is correctly classified and its effect on the person is plausible. For the marking job, accept either of the two concurrent examples: collecting taxes and creating courts.