

Who Handles It?

Sort powers in the U.S. federal system.

5.15.C "distinguish between national and state governments and compare their responsibilities in the U.S. federal system."

NAME _____

DATE _____

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The national government has powers that affect the whole United States. It handles matters that involve the country as one nation.

The national government makes treaties with other countries.

STATE GOVERNMENT

A state government has powers that mainly affect its own state. Each state can make many rules for the people who live there.

A state government sets rules for marriage licenses.

1 SORT

8 items

For each responsibility, circle NATIONAL or STATE, then choose two items and explain what each government does that helped you decide.

1. Prints U.S. money

NATIONAL

STATE

2. Issues driver's licenses

NATIONAL

STATE

3. Declares war

NATIONAL

STATE

4. Creates public school systems

NATIONAL

STATE

5. Sets speed limits on state highways

NATIONAL

STATE

6. Runs the U.S. Postal Service

NATIONAL

STATE

7. Protects the nation's borders

NATIONAL

STATE

8. Licenses doctors

NATIONAL

STATE

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new NATIONAL responsibility and one new STATE responsibility.

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one NATIONAL responsibility and one STATE responsibility. Write two sentences that explain how their responsibilities are different.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Prints U.S. money	NATIONAL	Only the national government can coin and print U.S. money.
2	Issues driver's licenses	STATE	State governments issue driver's licenses.
3	Declares war	NATIONAL	The national government has the power to declare war.
4	Creates public school systems	STATE	State governments are responsible for public education systems.
5	Sets speed limits on state highways	STATE	State governments set speed limits on roads they manage.
6	Runs the U.S. Postal Service	NATIONAL	The U.S. Postal Service is a national responsibility.
7	Protects the nation's borders	NATIONAL	Border protection is a national responsibility.
8	Licenses doctors	STATE	State governments license doctors and other professionals.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **NATIONAL:** Makes immigration rules.
- **STATE:** Issues hunting licenses.

Challenge: The national government prints U.S. money for the whole country. State governments issue driver's licenses for people who live in their states.

Sort answers are NATIONAL, STATE, NATIONAL, STATE, STATE, NATIONAL, NATIONAL, STATE. For Part 2, accept explanations that connect national powers to the whole country and state powers to one state.