Overview

This lesson focuses on the fundamental question of how power is divided and shared between the national and state governments. This quick but effective lesson on federalism will help students distinguish between delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers of government. It can be accomplished in one class period.

Standards

Current standards can be found on kshs.org.

Objectives

Content:
• The student will define the concept of federalism and its history.
• The student will explain the differences among “delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers.”

Skills:
• The student will identify examples of laws and actions taken by federal or state governments.

Essential Questions

• Why is authority and responsibility balanced and divided between national and state governments?
• How do national, state, and local laws affect your life?
This activity uses the following Read Kansas! cards:

• Division of Power Between Federal and State Governments

**Day 1**

1. Ask students to write a list of the activities they did from the time the alarm clock went off that morning until they arrived at school. Allow about five minutes to develop the list.

2. Have students share their lists. On the board create a three-column chart. Label the first column “Activities” and write a chronological list of the activities most representative of a normal student’s morning. The other columns will be labeled “Government Regulation” and “Level of Government.”

3. Ask students to speculate about the level of government that would affect or have authority on their morning activities. Fill out the other two columns of the chart as discussion ensues. To assist with the discussion see the sample chart in For the Teacher. Point out that some powers are allotted to more than one level of government. Ask why it is important for some things to be controlled by the national or federal government (i.e., time zones) and others to be controlled by state or local government (i.e., speed limits, parking areas), etc.

4. Divide the class into pairs and distribute the Division of Power Read Kansas! card to each student. Provide time for the pairs to quietly read the front of the card together. As a class discuss the reading. Questions might include
   a. Why was the United States Constitution different than most other constitutions at the time? (division of power between national government and states)
   b. What was the major concern in writing the constitution? (division of states’ rights and those of national government)
   c. The powers given to the national government and written in the constitution are called _______. (enumerated powers)
   d. The powers specifically given to the states are called ____________. (reserved powers)
   e. Some powers are shared by both the state and federal governments. These are called _________. (concurrent powers).

5. Have students review the back of the Read Kansas! card, The Federal System. This will provide more examples of the powers given to federal and state governments.

6. On the board make a three column chart of the Federal System. Column one is titled “Enumerated,” column two “Concurrent,” and column three “Reserved.” Each pair is to copy the chart and create three specific examples of each power based on contemporary issues and events, i.e., enumerated powers—purchasing new bombers for the military from Boeing; concurrent powers—personal income tax for both federal and state; and reserved powers—election of Kansas governor to a four year term.

7. Conduct a discussion of the examples given. Encourage students to defend their decisions.

8. Provide each student with a copy of the Who Has the Authority? worksheet. Using the Read Kansas! card students are to complete this assignment either in class or as homework.
Assessment

Evaluate the student’s ability to determine which level of government has authority.

For the Teacher

Definitions:

**Enumerated powers:** Those that are specifically named and delegated to the federal government or prohibited to be exercised by the states under the U.S. Constitution.

**Concurrent powers:** Those that are held simultaneously by both state and federal governments.

**Reserved powers:** Those that are not expressly delegated to the federal government nor expressly prohibited to the states and are therefore left to the states under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

You can find more information about the division of powers between federal, state, and local governments at “Project Vote Smart: The Voters’ Self-Defense System.” votesmart.org/resource_govt101_09.php

The “Government Effect on Normal Morning Activities—Sample Chart” is to help you lead a discussion of everyday items that are regulated by federal, state, and local authorities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Government regulation</th>
<th>Level of Government</th>
<th>Reason or Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alarm sounds</td>
<td>Standardized time zones</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Makes it easy to understand what time it is in another location. There are 24 time zones in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush teeth</td>
<td>Fluoride treatment</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Fluoride treatment is recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to make stronger teeth but actual addition to water is left to local authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorinated water</td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>To provide safe drinking water for its citizens each town and city must follow the purification standards set by the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get dressed</td>
<td>Standardized sizing of clothing</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>U.S. standard clothing sizes were implemented in the 1940s, but are not strictly enforced anymore due to “vanity” sizing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labeling and fabric content</td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Federal trade commission sets standards detailing the information that must be placed on garment labels. These include the content of the fabric, cleaning instructions, even where labels must be placed and the country in which the garment was made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Government regulation</td>
<td>Level of Government</td>
<td>Reason or Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At school</td>
<td>Nutrient levels and amount; cleanliness of kitchen and serving area</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Agriculture sets the standards for nutrients. Local school boards decide what to offer within those standards. States set food service safety regulations and conduct inspections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At home and school</td>
<td>Milk pasteurization</td>
<td>Federal and state</td>
<td>Food and Drug Administration sets standardization for pasteurized milk, which slows the growth of bacteria. This helps to reduce illnesses caused by contaminated milk. States regulate milk sales and licensing of dairies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat products</td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal and state</td>
<td>All meat is inspected by either federal or state inspectors to ensure quality guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gather schoolbooks</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>State and local</td>
<td>States set curriculum requirements and local school districts choose textbooks to meet those requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Licensure</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Licensure standards are set by each state to ensure quality teachers in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car safety</td>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Some states require safety inspections before cars can receive a license to be operated on public highways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus safety</td>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Buses are inspected by the state to ensure children’s safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver’s license</td>
<td></td>
<td>State and county</td>
<td>Driver’s license requirements are set by states and issued by counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Government regulation</td>
<td>Level of Government</td>
<td>Reason or Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car license</td>
<td>State and county</td>
<td></td>
<td>Licensing requirements of a vehicle are set by the state. Tags are issued by counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed limits</td>
<td>State and local</td>
<td></td>
<td>Highway speed limits are set by states; speed limits on local roads and streets are set by local government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus licensure</td>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bus regulations, safety inspections, registration, etc., are under state control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking zones</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cities designate no-parking areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who Has the Authority?

Read the following and decide which level of government has the authority in each case. Label the answers F for federal government, S for state government, or B for both.

1. Hundreds of acres of the prairie in central Kansas are set aside as a Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve managed by the National Park Service. _____
2. Gasoline tax is increased. _____
3. War is declared. _____
4. A candidate’s name for president of the United States appears on the Kansas ballot. _____
5. A new general is appointed at the U. S. Army base at Fort Riley. _____
6. The owner of a restaurant applies for a liquor license. _____
7. The retiring general of the Kansas National Guard is replaced with another person. _____
8. Mail is delivered. _____
9. Social studies curriculum is established for schools. _____
10. A new $5 bill is printed. _____
11. The Navy Seals rescue the captain of a freighter taken by Somalian pirates. _____
12. A working person must pay income tax. _____
13. Kansas National Guard troops are sent to the Middle East to fight in a war. _____
14. Laws are made for Washington, D.C. _____
15. Export taxes are added to steel products being shipped overseas. _____
16. Two school districts in Kansas consolidate. _____
17. Kansas National Guard troops are called upon to help with tornado damage in Greensburg. _____
18. The inventor of the microchip applies for a patent. _____
19. Changes are made to home babysitting licenses. _____
20. Smokers pay tax on a package of cigarettes. _____
Who Has the Authority? Key

Read the following and decide which level of government has the authority in each case. Label the answers F for federal government, S for state government, or B for both.

1. Hundreds of acres of the prairie in central Kansas are set aside as a Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve managed by the National Park Service. ____ F

2. Gasoline tax is increased. ____ B

3. War is declared. ____ F

4. A candidate’s name for president of the United States appears on the Kansas ballot. ____ S

5. A new general is appointed at the U.S. Army base at Fort Riley. ____ F

6. The owner of a restaurant applies for a liquor license. ____ S

7. The retiring general of the Kansas National Guard is replaced with another person. ____ S

8. Mail is delivered. ____ F

9. Social studies curriculum is established for schools. ____ S

10. A new $5 bill is printed. ____ F

11. The Navy Seals rescue the captain of a freighter taken by Somalian pirates. ____ F

12. A working person must pay income tax. ____ B

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14. Laws are made for Washington, D.C. ____ F

15. Export taxes are added to steel products being shipped overseas. ____ F

16. Two school districts in Kansas consolidate. ____ S

17. Kansas National Guard troops are called upon to help with tornado damage in Greensburg. ____ S

18. The inventor of the microchip applies for a patent. ____ F

19. Changes are made to home babysitting licenses. ____ S

20. Smokers pay tax on a package of cigarettes. ____ B