

State Government

TOPIC SUMMARY

The Framers of the U.S. Constitution created a special relationship between national and state governments. The Constitution assigns certain powers solely to the federal government. However, the Tenth Amendment offers to states all of those powers not given to the federal government. Some powers, known as concurrent powers, apply to both state and federal governments. Each state has its own constitution, many of which are similar to the U.S. Constitution. All states have established three separate branches of government. State legislatures have the important task of apportioning election districts. They also work to create laws. The governor is responsible for carrying out the laws of the state. State courts are organized in a three-tier system that resembles the structure of the federal judiciary.

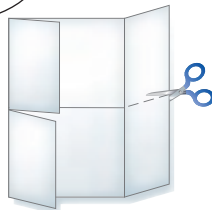
FOLDABLES™
Study Organizer

Organizing Information Study Foldable This Foldable will help students organize information about the branches of state government.

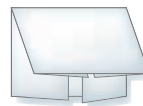
Step 1 Mark the midpoint of the side edge of one sheet of paper. Then fold in the outside edges to touch the midpoint.



Cut along the fold lines on both sides.



Step 2 Fold the paper in half from side to side.



Step 3 Open and cut along the inside fold lines to form four tabs. Label the Foldable as shown.



Reading and Writing Fill out the Foldable to organize information about the federal system and the three branches of state government.

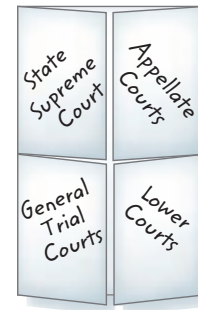
TOPIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

Researching

Have students create the Study Foldable above, including the Reading and Writing activity. Assign student groups one of the categories listed on the Foldable. Challenge students to learn more about the state and federal systems. They should include details such as individual departments and government officials who are a part of their category. Have students list their findings in the Foldable.

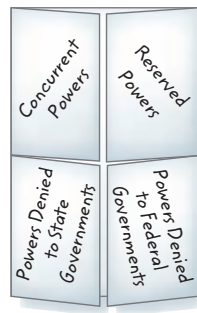
CATEGORIZING

Tell students to include one of the following headings on each Foldable tab: *Concurrent Powers*, *Reserved Powers*, *Powers Denied to State Government*, and *Powers Denied to Federal Government*. Then, have students note on the Foldable specific information about each of the powers shown. Have them write a one-sentence summary of each category.



REPORTING

Have students use the Organizing Information Study Foldable to learn more about each branch of the court system. Refer students to the Internet or library to learn more about the types of cases that are heard in each branch. Tell students to list examples of each beneath the appropriate tabs. Have students share their findings with the class.



Student Study Tip

Point out that students may at times be asked to present research or other work to a class. Remind students that effective presentations begin with an introduction that helps an audience understand the focus of the presentation. Explain that practicing beforehand with a friend or a small group can help reduce anxiety. Tell students that concluding with a short review of points covered in the presentation will help the audience remember the information.