

## **Lesson Plan #3 - Social Studies**

### **Title: The Powers of Government**

#### **Introduction:**

Since visual stimuli and organization skills are so important on the GED test and in life, this activity provides practice in using an organized visual representation of the powers of government.

#### **Objectives:**

In this lesson, students will:

- Organize similarities and differences for the powers of government.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the Venn Diagram.
- Demonstrate teamwork skills.

Session time: 10 -15 minutes

#### **Materials:**

Color coded **OR** white "*Powers of Government*" cards  
Venn Diagram (Either drawn on a poster board or the blackboard). A *poster board Venn Diagram may be reused in mathematics to show relationships between sets or in language arts to examine similarities and differences in characters, stories, poems, etc.*

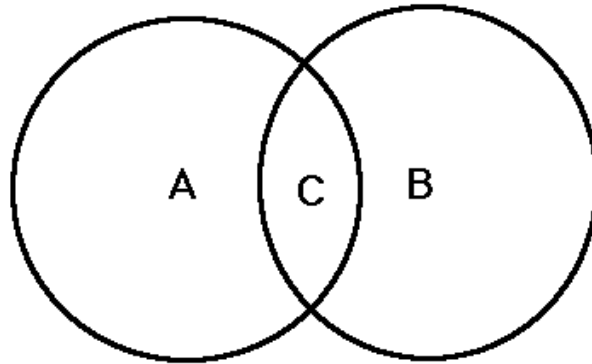
#### **Methods:**

Guided discussion, cooperative learning, interactive participation, visuals, written response

#### **Procedures:**

- 1) Prepare cards with a power of government on each card (see template that follows for information needed to make the cards). Make cards a different color for federal, for state, and for shared or both to help students organize when initially learning. Make the cards all the same color for review after initial instruction.
- 2) Divide the students into teams.
- 3) Randomly handout the cards to the teams.
- 4) Have the students determine where each of the cards should be placed on the Venn Diagram. All of the powers of the state will be placed in "A". All of the powers of the Federal government in will be placed in "B". All the powers that are shared by the Federal **and** the state governments will be

placed in “C”. *Using color coded cards make it easier for the students to determine the appropriate place for the cards and thus ensures success. However, if the students are more advanced or you are repeating this activity, use the white cards.*



# **Powers of Government—Federal**

PRINT MONEY

REGULATE INTERSTATE & INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE

MAKE TREATIES & CONDUCT FOREIGN  
POLICY

DECLARE WAR

PROVIDE AN ARMY AND NAVY

ESTABLISH POST OFFICES

# **Powers of Government—State**

ISSUE LICENSES

REGULATE INTRASTATE BUSINESSES

CONDUCT ELECTIONS

ESTABLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

RATIFY AMENDMENTS TO THE  
CONSTITUTION

TAKE MEASURES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
SAFETY

# **Powers of Government—Both**

COLLECT TAXES

BUILD ROADS

BORROW MONEY

ESTABLISH COURTS

MAKE AND ENFORCE LAWS

CHARTER BANKS & CORPORATIONS

SPEND MONEY FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE

TAKE PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC  
PURPOSES WITH JUST COMPENSATION

**Note:** This lesson is included in the workshop, *How to Make the U.S. Constitution Come to Life*, in the *SIPDC Catalog of Professional Development Opportunities*.