

Federalism – Can they do that?

Name: _____

Use the chart on page 201 in your blue and red textbook to determine if the following scenarios are constitutional. (Are they allowed under the US Constitution?)

1. Recently the city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy because it couldn't pay all its bills and had a lot of debt. That would never happen to Michigan, though, because Michigan could just print (or coin) more money.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

2. The state of Alaska is considering officially making marriage between a man and a woman.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

3. Puerto Rico has just voted to become the 51st state. Oregon doesn't want Puerto Rico to become a state and because of that, Puerto Rico can't join the US.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

4. A really bad person committed a really bad crime in Alaska. That person can be brought to trial in a Federal court (national government).

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

5. Congress is going to require all schools in the US to teach the theory of evolution in their 8th grade science classes.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

6. Minnesota is getting really tired of Canadians crossing the border into their state. Minnesota declares war on Canada.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

7. Texas has been talking for years about creating its own Army and Air Force to protect its borders from illegal immigration.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

8. Because Alaska is so big, the governor has decided that it should have its own post office.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

9. Russia wants to trade salmon with Alaska, but Alaska doesn't want the US government to know (for whatever reason.)

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

10. The whole country uses Fahrenheit, while Canada uses Celsius. That doesn't make much sense to Alaska. Alaska decides to change to using Celsius to record temperature.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

11. Your uncle, who lives in Alaska, wants to open a business in Alaska. The Federal (national) government makes him apply for a business license.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

12. Tax season is always a rough time. First you have to pay state income tax, and then you have to pay Federal taxes.

Can they do that? _____ Explain:

13. In your own words, describe **federalism**.