



The Legal System: SS.7.CG.3.9
State & Federal Courts
VIDEO #3 SCRIPT



Powers of State and Federal Courts

1. In this video, we will learn about the powers of the courts at the state and federal levels.
2. After watching this video:
 - ✓ You will be able to recognize that the powers and jurisdiction of the state and federal courts is derived from their constitutions.
3. So we talked a great deal about state and federal courts, but it's important for us to recognize where the powers and jurisdictions of the state and federal courts come from!
4. **The Florida Court System**
Where do YOU think the powers and jurisdiction of the Florida court system is described? Take a few seconds and think about it!
5. Did you guess the Florida Constitution? If yes, you guessed correctly!
6. The Florida Constitution gives its courts the jurisdiction to hear certain kinds of cases at the different levels of the state court system. County and circuit courts have original jurisdiction for certain cases. The Florida District Court of Appeals has appellate jurisdiction because they can review cases that have already been heard by lower courts.
7. The Florida Supreme Court is the highest court in Florida. It has appellate jurisdiction as well as the power to decide on the constitutionality of state laws in Florida. The decisions of the Florida Supreme Court are final, but they can be appealed to the US Supreme Court.
8. **The Federal Court System**
As Florida's courts get their power from the state constitution, it should be no surprise that our federal court system gets its power and jurisdiction from the United States Constitution!
9. United States District Courts have original jurisdiction over cases involving the federal government or the US Constitution.
10. The United States Court of Appeals has appellate jurisdiction, because they can review cases heard by the district courts.

11. The United States Supreme Court, as you know from earlier, is the highest court in the nation. It has appellate jurisdiction as well as the power to determine the constitutionality of federal and state laws. The decisions of the US Supreme Court are final and may not be appealed.

12. It seems, then, that for both Florida and the United States, it is constitutions that set up the power and jurisdiction of our courts. Always remember, though, that the United States Constitution is supreme, and that the United States Supreme Court is the FINAL decision maker when it comes to whether state or federal laws follow the United States Constitution!

13. Let's Check In. Question One. Where do the federal and state court systems get their jurisdictions and powers from?

14. ANSWER TO QUESTION