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| **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated** | **Federalism** |
| * **I can identify the relationship between the federal government and the state governments.**
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| **Weaknesses of the** **Articles of Confederation** |
| Congress could not raise money. |
| Congress could not regulate trade. |
| Congress could not enforce laws.  |
| There was no central leadership. |
| There was no central court system. |
| All 13 states had to agree to make changes.  |

Under the **Articles of Confederation**, the United States had a confederal system. This means that government power was located with the states and there was little power at the central, or national, level of government. The Articles of Confederation caused a lot of problems for the new nation because the national government had so little power.

The U.S. Constitution was written because the Founding Fathers wanted to solve these problems. The Founders had a big goal. They wanted to limit state power, while at the same time creating a national government that also had limited power.

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| **Federalism** |
| State and federal levels of government share power. |
| No level of government can become too powerful.  |
| The federal government could now enforce laws, conduct trade and create taxes.  |
| Helped establish national unity.  |

 To help solve these problems a new constitution was written. The United States Constitution is based on the idea of **federalism**. Federalism is the idea that government power is SHARED between the national or **federal** government and state governments. Federalism helped to fix many of the problems caused by the Articles of Confederation by creating a balance between national powers and state powers.

The Founding Fathers created the system of federalism to keep the federal and state governments from becoming too powerful.

The Constitution includes three types of powers to protect and define the powers of the federal and state governments. These powers are:

* **enumerated**, or **delegated**, powers that belong to the federal (national) government,
* **reserved** powers that belong to the state governments, and
* **concurrent** powers that the two levels share.

Under a federal system states have reserved powers, they can create their own laws, and they have their own constitution. But, the U.S. Constitution is the “Supreme Law of the Land.” The Supremacy Clause, found in the U.S. Constitution, states that

***“This Constitution, and the laws of the United States, which shall be made in Pursuance thereof...shall be the supreme Law of the Land…”***

The Supremacy Clause means that no state can pass laws or do anything that violates the U.S. Constitution, because the U.S. Constitution is supreme over state constitutions and laws. And that is at the heart of federalism.