

# Distribution of Power

Unitary, Confederation, & Federal

# Teachers

- Print off the following slide for each student.
- The students will complete the chart while discussing the presentation.



# Government Systems

**Your Task:** Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the *Distribution of Power presentation*.

| Government System | Definition & Facts | Examples |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Unitary           |                    |          |
| Confederation     |                    |          |
| Federal           |                    |          |



# Government Systems

**Your Task:** Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the *Distribution of Power presentation*.

| Government System | Definition & Facts | Examples |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Unitary           |                    |          |
| Confederation     |                    |          |
| Federal           |                    |          |



# Governments

- So why do we need governments anyways?
- Turn and discuss this question with your elbow partner.

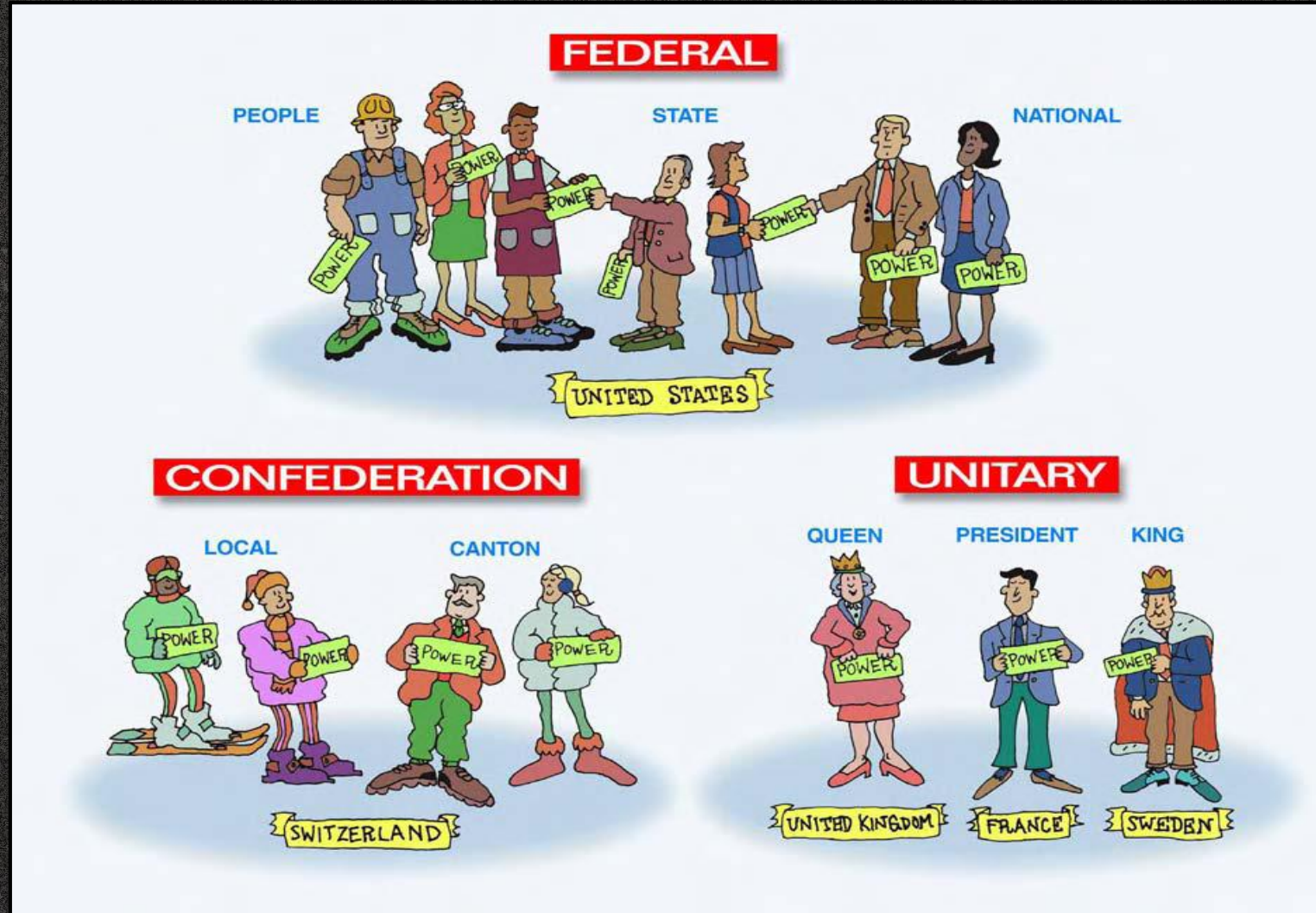


# Governments


- All countries require governments to function.
- Governments provide laws, structure, public services, and national defense.
- There are different types of governments:
  - democracies
  - republics
  - monarchies
  - dictatorships



# How is Power Shared?





The image features a vibrant, multi-colored plaid pattern in shades of teal, green, red, and brown. A large, black, hand-drawn style frame with a white outline is centered on the page. Inside this frame, the words "Federal System" are written in a white, hand-drawn, sketchy font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Federal" on the top line and "System" on the bottom line. The overall aesthetic is casual and artistic.

**Federal  
System**



# Federal System

- In a federal system, power is shared by a powerful central government and the state or local governments.
- States or provinces are given considerable self-rule, usually through their own legislatures.

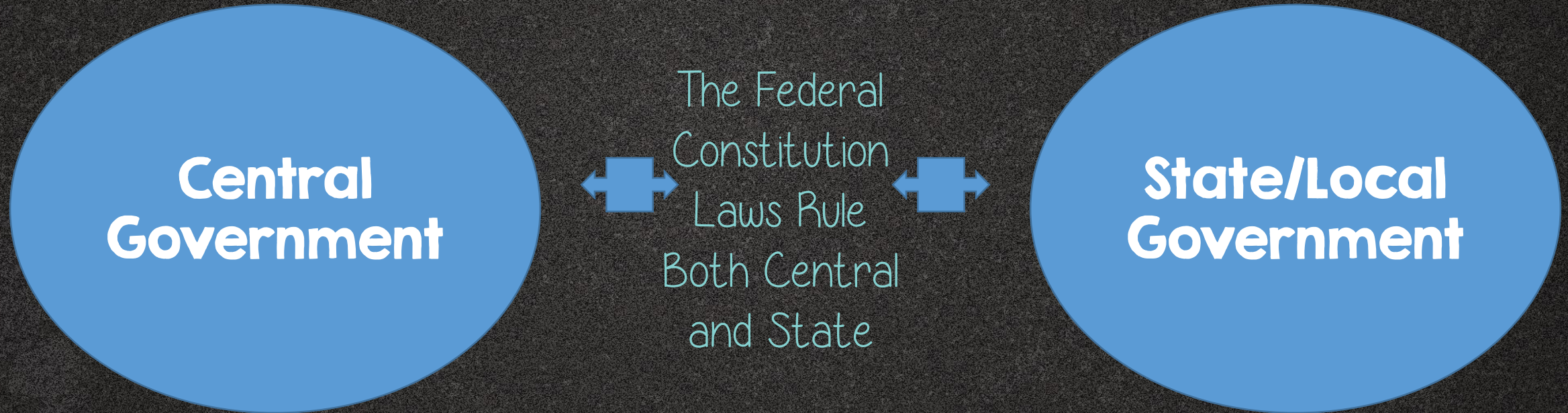


# Federal System

- In a federal form of government, power is divided between a central government & small divisions, such as states.
- A document (such as a constitution) may describe the rights, responsibilities, and duties of the central government & the states.
- Central government can be powerful, but does not have the ability to dissolve states or choose state leaders.



Federal Government- power of the Central government is separate from State Government



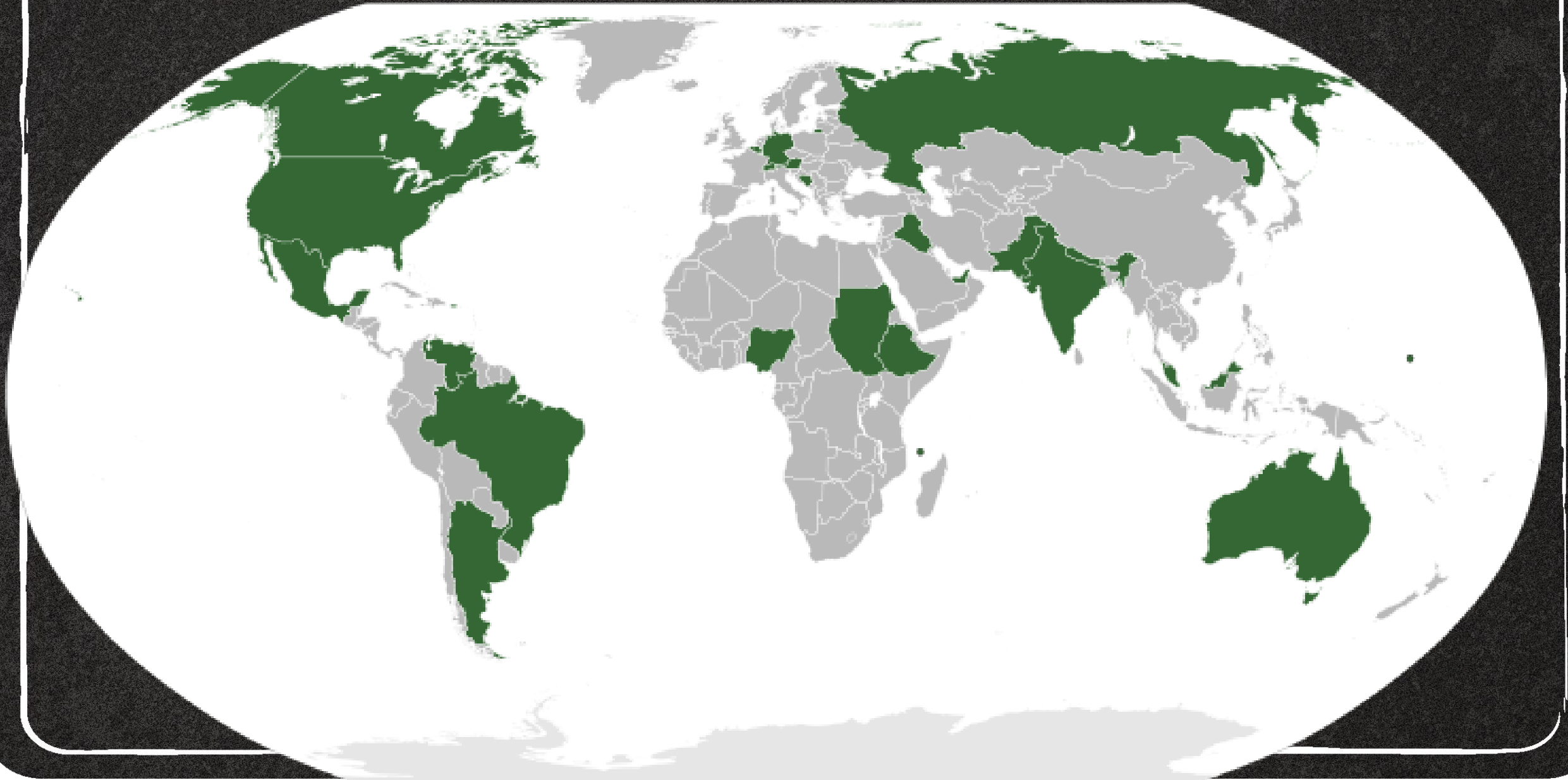


# Federal Countries

- Many countries use this form of distributing government power.
  - Western hemisphere: Brazil, Canada, Mexico, US, Venezuela, etc.
  - Europe: Russia, Germany, etc.
- A federal system does not mean that there is more or less personal freedom for the people. It explains how power is distributed.



# Federal Governments





# Let's Review

1. How does a federal system of government divide power?
2. What defines the rights, responsibilities, & duties of the central & state governments?



# Let's Review

1. How does a federal system of government divide power?
  - Between the central government and smaller units such as states
2. What defines the rights, responsibilities, & duties of the central & state governments?
  - A constitution





# Unitary System



# Unitary System

- In a unitary system, the power is held by one central authority.
- All power is given to one branch of government.

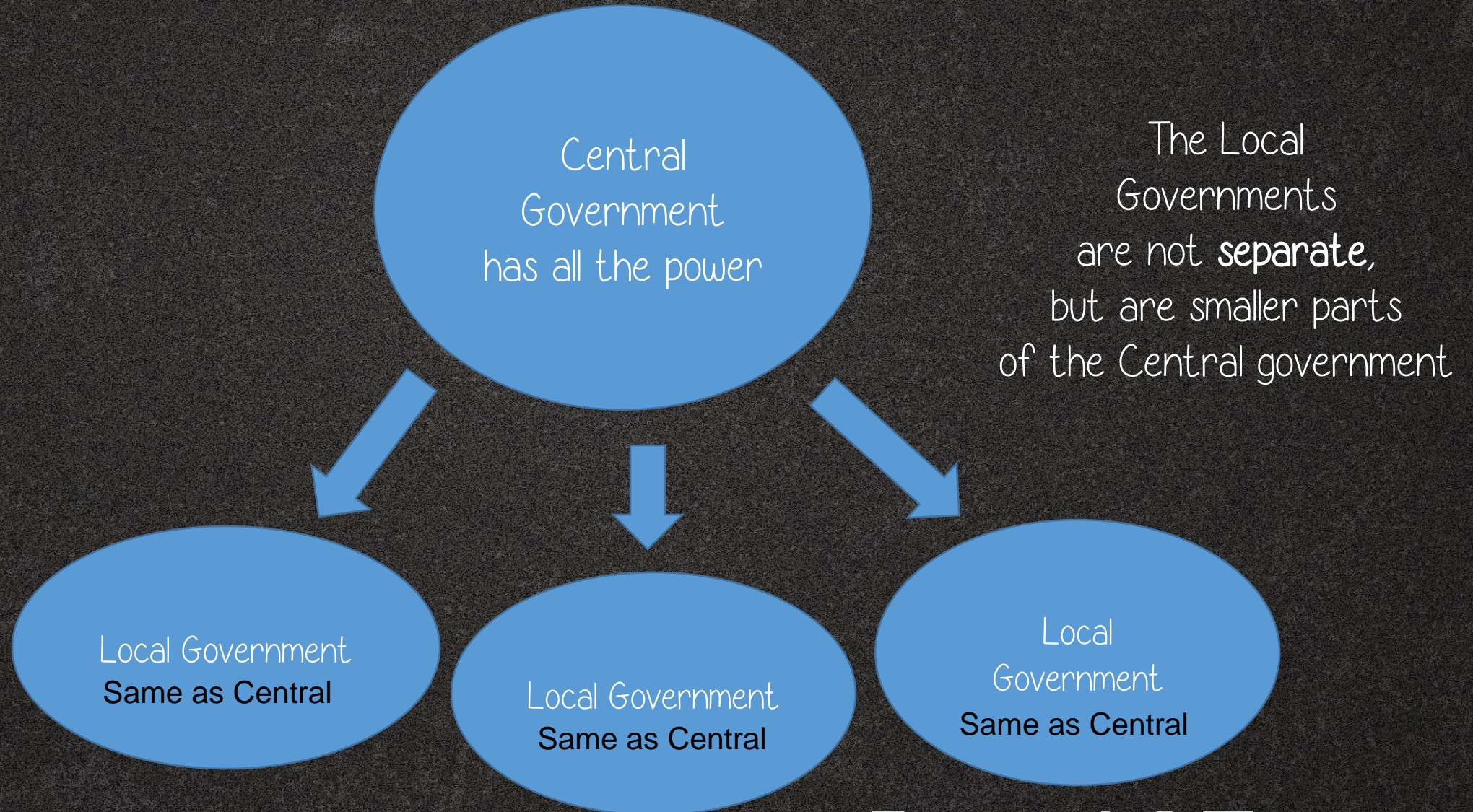


# Unitary System

- In a unitary government, the central government has most of the authority and decision-making power.
  - Local government offices are part of the central government.
  - The central government maintains all power over the local governments.
- Unitary governments may not be less *democratic* (when ordinary citizens get to vote) than other forms--it all depends on who is in charge!



# Unitary Government



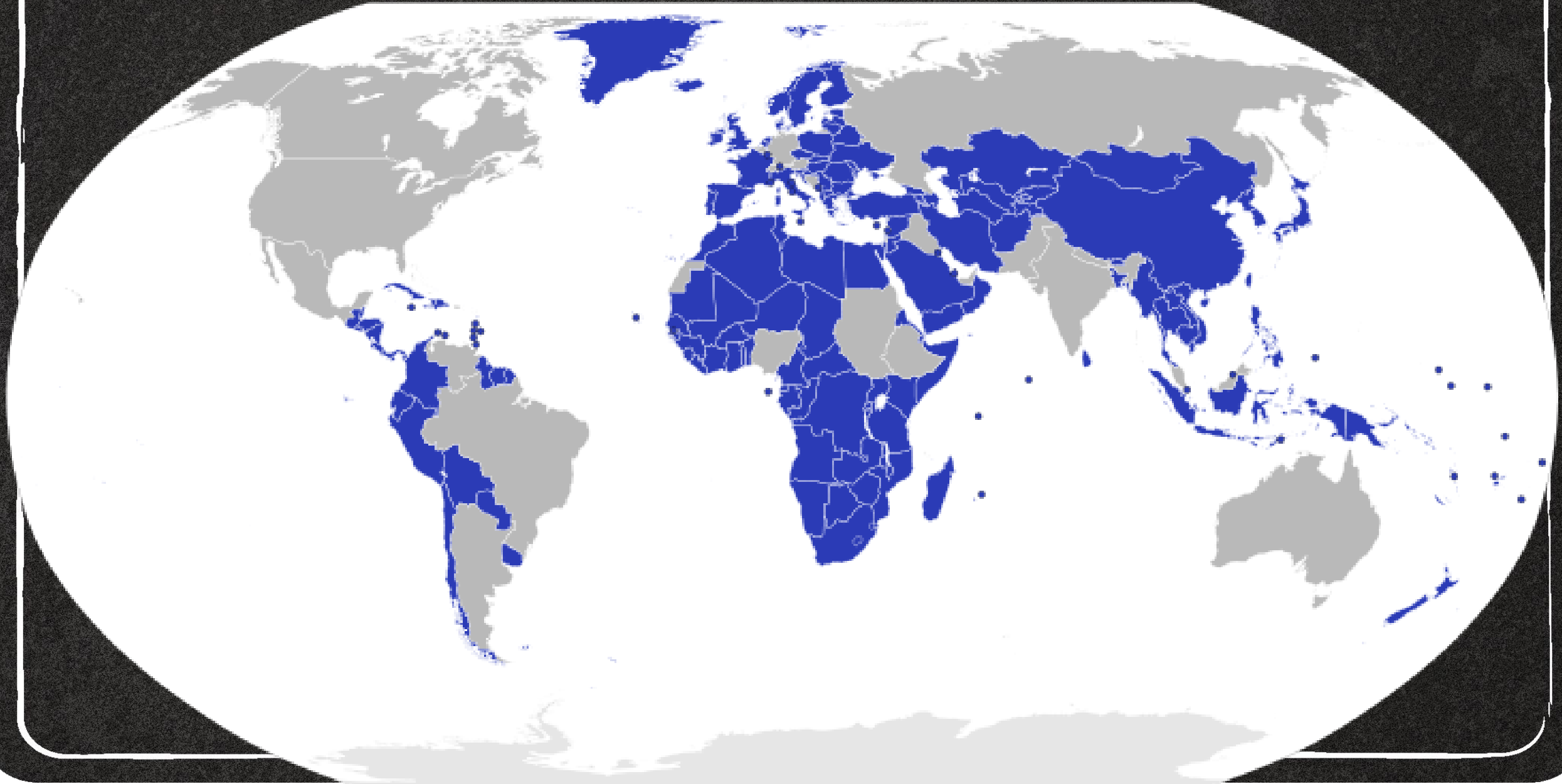


# Unitary Countries

- Many countries in the world are run this way.
  - Western hemisphere: Cuba & Bolivia
  - Europe: United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, & France



# Unitary Governments





# Let's Review

1. How is power distributed in a unitary government?
2. True or False: In a unitary government, the national government could remove the governor of a state and pick a new one.
3. France, UK, Bolivia, and Cuba--what do these countries have in common?



# Let's Review

1. A central government assigns power and duties to smaller units of government within the country.
2. True or False: In a unitary government, the national government could remove the governor of a state and pick a new one.
  - True
3. All have unitary government systems





**Confederation**



# Confederation

- A confederation is a system in which power is shared by an alliance of independent states (countries).
  - They voluntarily work together for some common purpose and agree to certain limits on their freedom of action.
- Examples: European Union, OPEC



# Confederation

- Some countries agree that they would be better able to solve problems or provide help if they worked together.
- They might sign a treaty or a constitution under which the countries agree to defend each other, trade with each other, use a common currency, etc.
- Membership is usually voluntary & a country can decide to leave at any time.



# Confederation

- Not commonly found among governments in the 21st century because there are several problems with them:
  - Often have little power because a high percentage of members must agree to decisions made,
  - Individual countries can veto decisions, &
  - Changes in the constitution requires all members to agree.
- Confederations generally have a weak central government.



# Let's Review

1. What is one problem with a confederation government?
2. In a confederation, government power lies with the \_\_\_\_\_.



# Let's Review

1. What is one problem with a confederation government?
  - The central government can create laws but might not be able to enforce them
2. In a confederation, government power lies with the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Governments of the member countries/states



# Show What You Know

- Let's get in groups of three. Number yourselves one, two, and three.
  1. *Ones* explain to the *twos* and *threes* how a unitary government system distributes power.
  2. *Twos* explain to the *ones* and *threes* how a confederation government system distributes power.
  3. *Threes* explain to the *ones* and *twos* how a federal government system distributes power.



# Stop & Think

- Turn to your elbow neighbor and tell them which form of government power you like best.
  - Don't forget to tell them WHY this is your opinion!



## Distribution of Power Questions

1. In which system do local government bodies have the LEAST political power?
2. Which system of government shares power between the central and local governments?
3. In which system of government does the central authority hold all of the power?
4. Which system does this describe, "A voluntary association of independent states that agree to some limitations of freedom in order to reach a common goal"?
5. Describe how power is distributed:
  - Unitary:
  - Federal:
  - Confederation:

## Distribution of Power Questions

1. In which system do local government bodies have the LEAST political power?
2. Which system of government shares power between the central and local governments?
3. In which system of government does the central authority hold all of the power?
4. Which system does this describe, "A voluntary association of independent states that agree to some limitations of freedom in order to reach a common goal"?
5. Describe how power is distributed:
  - Unitary:
  - Federal:
  - Confederation:





# Memory Clues

**Your Task:** Create a symbol to help you remember the different ways that government systems distribute power.

| Government Term | Symbol | Explanation |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| Unitary         |        |             |
| Confederation   |        |             |
| Federal         |        |             |



# Memory Clues

**Your Task:** Create a symbol to help you remember the different ways that government systems distribute power.

| Government Term | Symbol | Explanation |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| Unitary         |        |             |
| Confederation   |        |             |
| Federal         |        |             |



# Distribution of Power

## Awards



**Directions** Create an award that will go with each of the three ways that government systems distribute power. In the spaces below, write the award and also include a brief description of why the award was given.

For example: "Most Likely to Work Together" (Federal System). The national and local governments SHARE power.

### Unitary System

| Award: | Reason: |
|--------|---------|
|        |         |



# Confederation

Award:

Reason:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

# Federal System

Award:

Reason:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|



# Teachers:

Print the following slides and hang them around the room. Have the students number their papers (1-6), and then travel to each poster and write down the government system that is described.

KEY:

1. Federal
2. Confederation
3. Confederation
4. Unitary
5. Federal
6. Unitary



# ONE

Since its 1988 constitution, Brazil has divided its country into twenty-six states and a central government district. The states are then broken into over 5,500 municipalities, which are like counties. All these political units have a local government that has its own laws and taxes. Brazilians vote for representatives at each level. The central government will not allow any states or municipalities to be independent or break away from the country's national government.



## TWO

For only three years beginning in 1836, the countries of Bolivia, North Peru, and South Peru attempted a government system in which the three countries created a loose union that shared power as well as ruled themselves. Neighboring countries, including Argentina and Chile, were alarmed about this new government and a war followed that ended this shared government system between Bolivia and Peru.



# THREE

Established in 1993, the European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of twenty-seven independent countries, or member states, which has a foundation from the European Economic Community. The EU has allowed a single free trade market where all member states are guaranteed freedom of movement of people, goods, services, and capital. Most EU countries have adopted a common currency, called the euro. While it is governed by the EU Commission and Parliament over the union's common interests, each country still controls its independently-run government.



## FOUR

Costa Rica is a peaceful, democratic republic where power is only given by the central government, based in San Jose, the capital city. The seven provinces have leaders, but the laws and taxes of the central government have full control over the regional division.



## FIVE

Since its 1917 constitution, Mexico has had a central government based in its capital, Mexico City, and thirty-one states that also have their own state governments. Citizens vote for their representatives on three government levels: the central, state, and municipal governments.



# SIX

Fidel Castro took power as dictator over Cuba and made it communist in 1959 after leading the Cuban Revolution. Under this government system, only one political party was in control and only one person, Castro, made all decisions for the citizens. The laws he established from Havana, the capital, were to be followed by the entire country.



# Credits:

All photos were found via Creative Commons and labeled for reuse. Facts were found via CIA World Factbook and updated in October 2013.

- Fonts:



- Backgrounds & Graphics:





# Teachers

Thank you for downloading this file. I hope you enjoy using it with your students, and I can't wait to read your feedback in my TPT store! 😊

- Interested in more fun printables & activities? Please check out my Social Studies Interactive Notebook Kit:  
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Brain-Wrinkles>
- I teach Language Arts and Social Studies in Georgia, so my products are aligned with Common Core (LA) and Georgia Performance Standards (SS).

© Copyright 2013. Brain Wrinkles. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the original purchaser or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).