

U.S. Government
Federalism: U.S. versus the States

As you watch the film, answer the questions as best you can. After the film, finish answering questions that ask you to explain your answer.

1. On what grounds did the national government mandate that the state of Idaho had to allow the reintroduction of wolves?
2. By requiring that Idaho manage the wolves once they have been reintroduced, the national government was enforcing an unfunded mandate, meaning that the Federal government was requiring states to spend money on an activity mandated by Federal law. What justification is given in the film for this mandate?
3. Since citizens ultimately pay for all government funded activities, should the people of the state of Idaho be required to pay for this or should the people of all the United States pay for it? Explain your reasoning.
4. It is clear that the national government cannot directly legislate on the issue of drunk driving. How has the national government managed to get states to abide by a national blood alcohol standard?
5. What is devolution and why has it gained favor in recent years?
6. Those who advocate stronger states' rights often argue that the states can serve as laboratories for policy experimentation. Is the story of welfare reform a good example of that argument? Explain why.