THE CONSTITUTION WITH CARL

Volume 11 - The Tenth Amendment - Who Has the Power?

Who Has the Power?

Central question: What happens to every power the Constitution does not give away?





This is the last book in the Bill of Rights set, and it asks the biggest sorting question of all. The first nine amendments guard rights. This one guards power itself. Every power in America starts somewhere. The Constitution hands some powers to the national government in Washington. It forbids some powers to the states. A power can also sit in both places at once. Everything else stays where it began: with the states, or with the people themselves.

This book asks four questions about any power, not one sorting question. Who is acting? What written power supports federal action? What limits apply at each level? And may more than one level act at the same time?

Rights and powers both come before government in this series. Rights are God given and protected, not government granted. Powers work the same way in reverse: the people and the states held power first, and they lent only part of it upward. This amendment is the receipt for what was never lent.

For ages 7 to 11. Level Up boxes reach to age 13.

START HERE

Meet Carl and the Four Strands

Carl the Cardinal is Federalism Carl in this volume. He stands on a road between two signposts. One road leads toward Richmond, the capital of Virginia. The other leads toward Washington, the capital of the United States. His rolled map is the Constitution. Before anyone travels, Carl checks the map to see whose road a job belongs on.

The four strands, kept separate

Strand	What it is
THE WORDS	The amendment itself, in ORIGINAL WORDS, plus a PLAIN LANGUAGE EXPLANATION set apart from it.
THE HISTORY	Evidence from before and around 1791 about why the words were added.
COURTS HAVE SAID	Named cases with years. This is interpretation by judges, labeled as interpretation.
STILL DEBATED	Real disputes that remain. Stated fairly, never as settled fact.

How to use this book

- Read the words aloud first. Then read the explanation.
- Write, draw, point, or dictate your answers. All of those count.
- Everyday examples show ordinary practice, not a final court ruling. A job states handle every day can still overlap valid federal regulation.
- Local governments act under state law. A city or county holds the authority its state gives it, not separate Tenth Amendment sovereignty of its own.
- One guardrail runs through the whole book: reserved power does not let a state ignore a valid national law. Page 10 explains why.
- Family Talk is where the family viewpoint lives. It is never presented as a court holding.

MEET CARL BOX

Carl in this volume is a road keeper. He does not decide which road is better. He checks the map, reads the signposts, and sends each job down its own road. A question sent to the wrong capital is a question answered by the wrong hands, and Carl takes that seriously.