**Social Studies Home Learning Activities**

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| **Standard Benchmark**  **Civics 1a** | Students will understand why governments have the authority to make, enforce, and interpret laws and regulations, such as levying taxes, conducting foreign policy, and providing for national defense. |
| **Grade Band** | 6-8 |
| **Vocabulary/Key Concepts** | Authority (of government), enforce, interpret, regulations, conduct, foreign policy, national defense. |

***Powers of Government***

**Focus Question**: Why are governments granted the powers that they have?

**Activity 1:** Work alone or with others in your home or at school to create a big wish list of things that you would love government to do. See **Chart 1** below. List the things that you want government to do in the left-hand column. Feel free to be greedy (but just for this activity ;)

**Chart 1**

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| **Things I Wish Governments Would Do** | **Powers Needed to do these things** |
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**Activity 2**

See **Chart 2** below. Survey at least four other people and add the things that they want government to do in the right-hand column of the chart. What would other people want governments to do?

**Chart 2**

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| **Things Others Wish Governments Would Do** | **Powers Needed to do these things** |
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**Activity 3**

Imagine that you surveyed the 327 million people who live in the United States! How HUGE would that list be?

Look at your two lists on Charts 1 and 2. Go back to those charts and, in the right-hand columns, create a list of powers that any government would need if it had the responsibility to do everything on the two lists.

**Activity 4:** Follow news relating to the Coronavirus using the media of your choice e.g. newspapers, radio, television, internet etc.

See **Chart 3** below.

* In the left-hand column, list powers that governments in the United States (federal, state, local) are using to address the pandemic.
* In the right-hand column, describe the purposes of government that each power is being used to fulfill (e.g. provide national security, manage resources, maintain order, establish justice, provide public services, manage conflict).

**Chart 3**

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| **Powers Used by Governments to Address the Coronavirus Epidemic** | **Purposes or Reasons Why Governments Need these Powers** |
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**Reflect:**

How are American citizens reacting to the exercise of these powers – supporting or opposing them? How might these reactions illustrate the important role that citizens should play in (a) monitoring and perhaps checking governments as they wield power, and (b) fulfilling their civic responsibilities by responding to the exercise of those powers in ways that consider their own well-being as well as the well-being of others?

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**Draw Your Conclusion/Explain the Big Idea:** Why are governments granted the powers that they are have?

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