

TEXT SUMMARY

Eight of Congress's expressed powers deal with war and national defense. Congress shares these powers with the President, who is commander in chief of all the country's armed forces. Only Congress, however, has the power to declare war. It can also organize and support an army and navy.

Among its other expressed powers, Congress makes laws about **naturalization**, or the process by which foreigners become U.S. citizens. Congress can also establish post offices. Congress has used this power to pass laws against crimes involving the postal system.

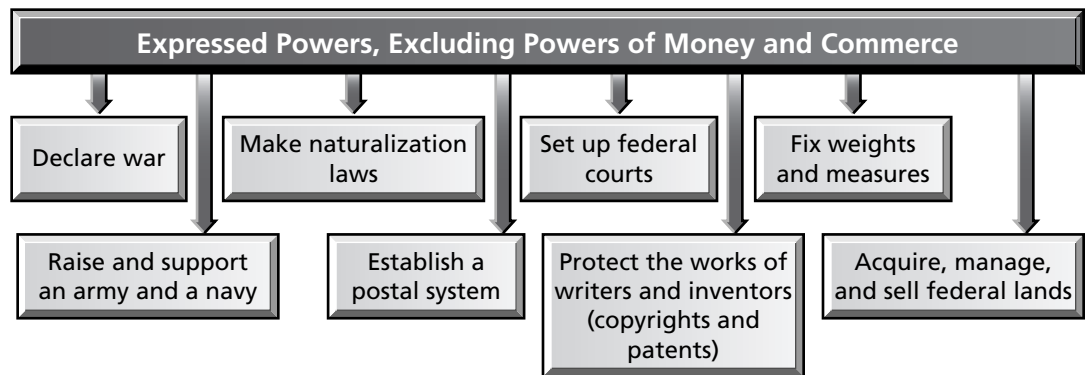
The Constitution asks Congress to promote science and the arts by protecting

the work of both writers and inventors. Congress has done this, in part, through copyright laws. A **copyright** is the exclusive right of an author to reproduce, publish, and sell his or her work. A **patent** gives an inventor the sole right to make, use, or sell "any new and useful art, machine, manufacture, . . . or any new and useful improvement."

Congress has the power to fix standards for weights and measures for the country. It may also acquire, manage, and sell certain federal lands, such as parks. The Federal Government may take private property by **eminent domain**, or the power to take private land for public use. Congress also has the power to set up federal courts lower than the Supreme Court.

THE BIG IDEA

Congress has a number of major expressed powers that are not related to money and commerce.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Expressed Powers of Congress

Many of the expressed powers of Congress affect the daily lives of Americans.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of copyrights and patents?
2. **Diagram Skills** What power of Congress ensures that a gallon measure is the same in each State?