

Defending Against Foreign Threats

Government spending for soldiers, weapons, diplomats, and foreign aid

Background facts:

- A. The government of the United States has a Constitutional duty to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for defense, promote the general welfare”
- B. On 2015, the government spent about one trillion dollars for defense and foreign aid.
(1 trillion = 1 million million = 1000 billion)

1. Each row of three boxes represents the big choices we could make:

Military Force

Preparing for and fighting battles

Pentagon officials, active-duty personnel, weapons, ammunition, ships, planes, forts
Veterans hospitals, education, welfare, pensions for retired officers

Diplomacy

Solving disputes without fighting

State Department, ambassadors, treaty negotiators, travel, customs
Alliances, United Nations, peacekeeping, World Court

Foreign Aid

Fixing problems that might lead to war

Anti-poverty, development, and medical assistance
Block grants, military aid, equipment and training

2. Draw a total of 20 small circles in these three boxes to show how much you think the U.S. should spend for military military force, diplomacy, and foreign aid
(Each of the 20 circles represents 50 billion dollars, for a total of 1000 billion = one trillion).

Military Force

Diplomacy

Foreign Aid

3. Now put markers in these boxes to show how much you think the U.S. actually spends.

Military Force

Diplomacy

Foreign Aid

4. Your teacher or discussion leader will show you the actual Federal budget.
Talk about ways to get from where the country is to where you think it should be.