

Our Federal Government

Essential and Leading Questions

Learning Target:

- (1) What is the structure of Congress and what are the qualifications for congressional membership?
- (2) How does congressional membership differ between the House and the Senate? Why?
- (3) How does a bill become a law?
- (4) What are the duties of the legislative branch?



Article 1: Legislative Branch

1. What is the job of the legislative branch of our federal government?
2. What are the two houses of Congress and how many members does each have?
3. What are the qualifications to be in the Legislative branch of our government?
 - a) age
 - b) citizenship (citizen of U.S.)
 - c) residency (where you live)
4. What are the expressed powers of Congress (what can they do)?
5. How are laws made? What is the President's role in making laws?



Important Vocabulary: impeachment, calendar, veto, standing committee and tabling

Learning Target: How does the President help run the country?



Article II: Executive Branch

1. What is the job of the executive branch of our federal government?
2. What are the qualifications to be President of the United States?
3. What hats or roles does the President wear?
4. What are the duties and obligations of the President?
5. What are the departments in the executive branch and what are their duties?



Important Vocabulary: executive, cabinet, inauguration, foreign policy

Learning Target: Why do we need a Supreme Court?

Article III: Judicial Branch

1. What is the job of the executive branch of our federal government?
2. How many Supreme Court justices are there?



Essential Question:
Why has our government served us well for over 200 years?

3. What is the name of the "head" justice?
4. For how long are justices on the Supreme Court?
5. What types of cases does the Supreme Court hear?

Important Vocabulary: appeal, jurisdiction, unconstitutional

Learning Target: How do we make sure no branch gets too powerful?

Checks and Balances

How do the different branches check each other to make sure no branch becomes too powerful?



Learning Target: how is our Constitution a living document?

Amendments to the Constitution

1. What is the Bill of Rights?
2. What freedoms are contained in the Bill of Rights?
3. What types of major changes from society can you see in Amendments 11-27?

Important Vocabulary: quartering, seizure, indictment, double jeopardy, impartial jury, subpoena, suffrage, "Lame Duck" Session, prohibition, abolition/abolished



Learning Target: Is the Bill of Rights at work in schools?

The Supreme Court at Work/School Law

1. How do Supreme Court decisions affect your rights in school?
2. Are your rights in school the same as your rights out of school?



Learning Target: Why is citizen participation essential to the preservation of the U.S. political system?

Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities

1. What rights do you have as a citizen of the United States?
2. What responsibilities do you have to your nation?
3. How do people become U.S. citizens?
4. How can you become a better American?

