

U.S. AND FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONS



LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
SS.3.CG.3.1 Explain how the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish the structure, function, powers and limits of government.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution establish the framework for national and state government.■ Students will recognize how government is organized at the national level (e.g., three branches of government).■ Students will provide examples of people who make and enforce rules and laws in the United States (e.g., congress and president) and Florida (e.g., state legislature and governor).
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ ELA.3.F.1.3: <i>Use knowledge of grade-level phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.</i>■ ELA.3.F.1.4: <i>Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.</i>■ ELA.3.R.2.2: <i>Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.</i>■ ELA.3.R.3.2: <i>Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.</i>■ ELA.3.C.2.1: <i>Present information orally, in a logical sequence, using nonverbal cues, appropriate volume, and clear pronunciation.</i>■ ELA.3.V.1.1: <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i>■ ELA.3.V.1.3: <i>Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.</i>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How do the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish a framework for government?
VOCABULARY
executive, legislative, judicial
MATERIALS

- U.S. and Florida Governments review slides
- U.S. and Florida Constitutions reading
- Highlighter
- U.S. and Florida Constitutions graphic organizer
- Chart Paper or the Similarities and Differences chart slide

ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Use the “U.S. and Florida Government” review slides to activate student prior knowledge on the concept of federalism and the need/purpose of government.
2. Explain to students that today they will take a closer look at both the U.S. and Florida constitutions to see how they are similar and different in the ways they map out their governments.

ACTIVITY

3. Tell the students that the government is organized in a similar way. A constitution explains the government’s structure, function, powers, and limits.
4. Pass out the “U.S. and Florida Constitutions” reading.
5. As a whole class, read over the text. Students should follow along and circle, underline, or highlight important information based on the teacher’s directions.
6. Place students into pairs or small groups.
7. Distribute the “U.S. and Florida Constitutions” graphic organizer.
8. Using their text, have the students complete the chart.
9. Review the answers whole group.

CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

10. On a piece of chart paper, or using the “Similarities and Differences” chart slide, create a T-chart with one side labeled as “Similarities” and the other side as “Differences”.
11. Ask students to share some of the similarities they noticed between the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution. Ask them to share any differences.
12. Write/Type the students’ responses on the chart.
13. Finish by asking the students to look at the T-chart as a whole and share observations. (Answers may include: more similarities than differences, both constitutions organize government in the same way; both have people to make and enforce laws; both have three branches, etc.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FJCC/LFI Website

ANSWER KEYS
“U.S. and Florida Constitutions” sample graphic organizer
SOURCES
n/a