

## REPRESENTING FLORIDA IN THE U.S. CONGRESS



### LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
<b>SS.5.CG.2.5</b> Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the national level.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Students will identify Florida's U.S. senators and the U.S. representative for their district.</li><li>■ Students will discuss the constitutional qualifications for office, term length, authority, duties, activities and compensation.</li></ul>
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>ELA.5.F.1.3:</b> <i>Use knowledge of grade-appropriate phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.F.1.4:</b> <i>Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.R.2.1:</b> <i>Explain how text structures and/or features contribute to the overall meaning of texts.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.R.2.2:</b> <i>Explain how relevant details support the central idea(s), implied or explicit.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.C.4.1:</b> <i>Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic and using multiple reliable and valid sources.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.V.1.1:</b> <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.V.1.3:</b> <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></li></ul>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
Who represents Florida at the national level of government?
VOCABULARY
U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Congress
MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Florida's Congressional Map (external link)</li><li>■ Constitutional Qualifications for Congress slides</li><li>■ Representing Florida in the U.S. Congress worksheet</li><li>■ Student devices</li></ul>

## ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

### INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Pull up the image of "[Florida's Congressional Map](#)" from Florida Politics. Ask the students if they have any guesses as to the purpose of this map.
2. Explain that this map shows Florida's different congressional districts. Each section/district elects one individual to represent that area and serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Teacher Note:** *Florida's congressional districts are not necessarily the same as county boundaries.*

3. Remind students that each state's national representation consists of two U.S. Senators and a varied number of U.S. Representatives. The number is varied because it is based on population. Ask students: Currently, how many congressional districts does Florida have? (28) Why aren't the districts the same size? (population density)

**Teacher Note:** *The House may not have more than 435 members. Counts (reapportionment) and redistricting is done every 10 years after the census. Florida just increased from 27 to 28 representatives after the 2020 census. Lesson SS.5.CG.3.1 discusses the structure of the legislative branch at the national level in more detail.*

### ACTIVITY

4. Pass out the "Representing Florida in the U.S. Congress" worksheet.
5. Pull up the "Constitutional Qualifications for Congress" slides.
6. Explain to students that, as a class, you are going to read through Article I, Sections 2, 3, and 6 of the U.S. Constitution, which talks about qualifications for serving in Congress.
7. They should fill in the table at the top of the worksheet regarding qualifications, terms, and compensation for the U.S. Senators and Representatives that represent Florida at the national level in Congress.

### CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

8. Show students the "[U.S. House](#)" and the "[U.S. Senate](#)" website. Take some time exploring the site together to familiarize them with how to navigate it.
9. Using these websites and student devices, have students complete the second half of their worksheet, learning more about who currently represents Florida at the national level. Students should outline two facts about their U.S. Representative and one of their U.S. Senators. Facts may include:
  - a. Political Party
  - b. Any military service
  - c. Profession before serving
  - d. How long the individual has served

- e. Bills proposed
- f. Schooling, family, etc.

**Teacher Note:** *You may pull the Congressional Map back up and discuss what congressional district your school/community is located in to assist students in researching the correct U.S. House representative.*

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FJCC/LFI Website](#)

### ANSWER KEYS

“Representing Florida in the U.S. Congress” sample answers

### SOURCES

Florida’s Congressional District image from Florida Politics:

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/518919-tour-every-congressional-district-on-floridas-new-congressional-map/>

U.S. House: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

U.S. Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/>