

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
SS.5.CG.3.1 Describe the organizational structure and powers of the national government as defined in Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Students will identify legislative, executive and judicial branch functions of the U.S. government as defined in Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution.■ Students will explain why the Constitution divides the national government into three branches.
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ ELA.5.F.1.3: <i>Use knowledge of grade-appropriate phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.</i>■ ELA.5.C.3.1: <i>Follow the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to grade level.</i>■ ELA.5.V.1.1: <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i>■ ELA.5.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 does the U.S. Constitution organize the national government?
VOCABULARY
legislative, executive, judicial, article, separation of powers, checks and balances
MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The National Government Review slides■ U.S. Constitution (external link)■ The National Government reading■ Highlighters

ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

INTRODUCTION/HOOK
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project the “The National Government Review” slides.2. Read each question to the class. Instruct students to hold up 1 (legislative), 2 (executive), or 3 (judicial) fingers to answer each question. <p>Teacher Note: <i>Answers to each question are provided in the speaker notes. The content included in this introductory activity should have been covered through SS.3.CG.3.1, SS.4.CG.3.1, and SS.4.CG.3.2 in past years.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Remind students that the three branches of government were created and outlined by the U.S. Constitution.
ACTIVITY
<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Explain to students that the first three articles in the U.S. Constitution outline the structure, function, and powers of each branch of our government. There is one article for each branch of government. <p>Teacher Note: <i>You can direct students to the “U.S. Constitution” so that students can visually see the structure of the Constitution and the articles.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Distribute “The National Government” reading and have the students read the text independently, answering the embedded questions as they read. <p>Teacher Note: <i>Students may also highlight answers to demonstrate ability to find key details within the text and justify their responses.</i></p>
CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT
<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Direct students to pair up and compare their findings from the reading. Discuss any differences in answers and work to reread the text if needed to come to a conclusion. If time allows, meet with one other student to compare findings. <p>Teacher Note: <i>You may choose to project the reading and discuss answers as a whole group after students have turned in their reading. Additionally, you may project the sample response provided below to review the correct answers. If time permits, you could also play the review game from the introduction/hook again.</i></p>
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
FJCC/LFI Website
ANSWER KEYS
“The National Government” reading sample response
SOURCES
U.S. Constitution from: http://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/constitution-full-text.pdf