

# FOUNDATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT



## LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK	
<b>SS.5.CG.3.2</b> Analyze how the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the national government and protect citizens from an oppressive government.	
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students will recognize examples of what to include, but not be limited to, popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, the amendment process, and the fundamental rights of citizens in the Bill of Rights.</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><li><b>SS.5.A.5.10:</b> <i>Examine the significance of the Constitution including its key political concepts, origins of those concepts, and their role in American democracy.</i></li></ul>	
ESSENTIAL QUESTION	
How does the U.S. Constitution limit government power and protect citizens?	
VOCABULARY	
popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, rights, limited government, principles	
MATERIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Foundation of the U.S. Government worksheet</li></ul>	

- Interactive Foundations slides
- Government Scenarios slides

## ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

### INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Today we're going to learn about the foundation of the United States government. Start by asking the class if anyone knows what the foundation of the home does? (everything is built on it, provides the strength/support for the home, can't have a home without strong foundation)
2. Tell them that our government has a foundation as well. And we're going to learn more about it today.
3. Pass out the "Foundation of the U.S. Government" worksheet to the students.
4. Read the top portion together. Reinforce the idea to students that our Founders wanted the government's power to be limited and citizen's rights protected to avoid the experience we had under British rule.

### ACTIVITY

5. Bring up the "Interactive Foundations" slides.
6. Inform your students that you'll be taking a closer look at the foundation of the United States' government. We'll be learning some important terms today that the students will keep track of on their "Foundation of the U.S. Government" worksheet.

**Teacher Note:** *These terms would also be great to have displayed on a word wall for students to access and refer back to during other civics lessons through the year. These terms will be heavily used in subsequent grades.*

7. Lead students through the "Interactive Foundation" slides and follow the speaker notes for discussion points.
8. Allow students enough time between terms to write the information on their worksheet.

### CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

9. Open the "Government Scenarios" slides.
10. Lead the students through a review of these terms by going through some scenarios. The students will determine if the scenarios are an example of popular sovereignty, rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, or federalism.
11. Generate discussions about how each scenario protects its citizens.
12. The answers will be in the speaker notes for these scenarios.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FJCC/LFI Website](#)

ANSWER KEYS
"Foundation of the U.S. Government" worksheet sample answers
SOURCES
n/a