

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.2.CG.1.1 <i>Explain why people form governments.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will explain the role of laws in government. ■ Students will define and provide examples of laws at the state and national levels. ■ Students will use scenarios to identify the impact of government on daily life.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
1st Grade	<p>SS.1.CG.1.1 Explain the purpose of rules and laws in the home, school, and community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will explain the role that rules and laws play in their daily life. ● Students will explain the difference between rules and laws. <p>SS.1.CG.3.1 Recognize that the United States and Florida have Constitutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will define a constitution as an agreed-upon set of rules. ● Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution starts with “We the People”.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.1.1 Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes the purpose and fulfills the need for government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will explain the purpose of and need for government in terms of protection of rights, organization, security, and services. <p>S.S.3.CG.3.1 Explain how the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish the structure, function, powers, and limits of government.</p> <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). <p>SS.3.CG.3.2. Recognize that government has local, state, and national levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize that each level of government has its own unique structure and responsibilities. ● Students will distinguish between the responsibilities of the local, state, and national governments in the United States.

TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year. However, it fits better toward the beginning of the school year as the students have recently learned about classroom rules and procedures.
- Teaching this benchmark with SS.2.CG.1.2 and SS.2.CG.3.1 helps students better understand the purpose of the U.S. Constitution and the role and function of government.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ Explain can mean: list, name, compare, or connect
- ◆ People form governments to create an organized and safe society, ensure protection, protect rights, and help provide public goods and services.
- ◆ Students have background knowledge on the role and purpose of laws in their school and community from previous grade levels. Second grade civics is the first grade level that scaffolds student understanding of laws to the state and national levels of government.
- ◆ Benchmarks and benchmark clarifications are written for the teacher. Students can achieve mastery of a benchmark with a conceptual understanding that uses examples and scenarios that are appropriate to their academic level.

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The role of laws (review difference between rules and laws)
- ◆ The government creates and enforces laws
- ◆ Why people form governments
- ◆ Three main levels of government: local, state, and national
- ◆ Florida is a state within the country of the United States. Florida is one of fifty states that make up the United States.
- ◆ Each state has their own government, constitution, and laws
- ◆ National laws apply to everyone in the United States
- ◆ Examples of state and national laws
- ◆ The impact of government on daily life

→ Examples:

- ◆ Use a map to show the concept of states within a country
- ◆ State Laws
 - e.g., car seat laws, whether a citizen can drive and talk on a cell phone, whether a citizen needs a license to fish, requirements to become a teacher, what students are required to learn in school
 - State laws may also be unique as they are needed for one state, however, they do not make sense in other states.
 - e.g. laws pertaining to feeding alligators, laws pertaining to Florida beaches, laws pertaining to snow removal
- ◆ National Laws
 - e.g., monetary (money) and banking laws, laws related to National Parks, laws regarding the language of the Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Impact of government on daily life
 - Used water and lights at your house to get ready for school (local government/utilities), drove to school (state driver's license/local traffic laws), stopped for fast food breakfast (laws about food regulation/

business laws), went to school (government funds schools/laws related to teacher requirements and what students learn), after school had sports practice (local parks and recreation), saw police officers and firefighters on your drive home (local government)

- Local and state government examples provide the most direct impact on citizen's daily lives

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

When a group of individuals live together in a country, state, city, or community, they agree to live by certain rules and laws. The system of rules and the people who make and administer them is known as a government. A government may be responsible for creating an organized and safe society, ensuring protection, protecting rights, and helping provide public goods and services. In return, the people of the country pay taxes to the government and follow all rules and laws.

Governments have been part of history for thousands of years, and concepts of what a government should look like and how it should form have changed over time. No two forms of government are identical. Also, throughout history, scholars and philosophers have written about the importance of governments, many specific to self-government/democratic government. Prominent democratic government philosophers include Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and David Hume.

Each government has institutions and processes for carrying out the functions of government. Many countries outline the rules that govern the country in a constitution.

Information on laws:

1. [Kids Britannica: Rules and Laws](#)
2. [Florida State Laws](#)
3. [USA.Gov: Federal Laws & Regulations](#)

Information on local, state, and national government:

1. [Britannica: Federalism](#)
2. [FJCC: CRL Federalism](#)
3. [FJCC Teacher Background Knowledge](#)