

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK

SS.2.CG.1.2 *Explain how the U.S. government protects the liberty and rights of American citizens.*

BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will recognize that the equal rights of citizens are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

1st Grade	<p>SS.1.CG.2.1 Explain the rights and responsibilities students have in the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will identify the rights (e.g., treated with respect, physically safe learning environment) and responsibilities (e.g., come to school on time, do not damage school property) students have as members of their school community. ● Students will define rights as freedoms protected by laws and, in the school community, freedoms protected by rules. ● Students will define responsibilities as things citizens should do to benefit the community. <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”.
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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).
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TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year.
 - Note: September 17th is Constitution Day
- Teaching this benchmark with SS.2.CG.1.1 and SS.2.CG.3.1 helps students 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, tell, write, name
 - ◆ A right is given to every citizen; it does not have to be earned
 - ◆ Liberty and rights of American citizens are protected by the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, laws, and court decisions.
 - ◆ All rights are protected however, rights are not absolute
 - ◆ The phrase “equal rights of citizens” is best defined by the 14th amendment
 - *“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”*
 - ◆ Liberty may be used synonymously with freedom in this context
 - ◆ U.S. Constitution
 - An agreed-upon set of rules or laws
 - Supreme law of the land
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ The concept of a right
 - ◆ All American citizens have rights
 - ◆ The rights of American citizens are protected by the U.S. Constitution (but not absolute)
 - ◆ All American citizens are equal and receive equal protection under the law and the U.S. Constitution
- Examples:
 - ◆ Rights of citizens:
 - Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (from the Declaration of Independence)
 - Bill of Rights/Other Amendments
 - Examples: 1st Amendment (freedom of speech, religion, petition, press, and assembly); 14th Amendment (defines equal protection and rights); 15th & 19th Amendments (extends voting rights)

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on equal rights of American citizens:

1. [Annotated U.S. Constitution: 14th Amendment](#)
2. [USCIS: Citizenship Rights & Responsibilities](#)

3. [FJCC Teacher Background Knowledge](#)

Information on the U.S. Constitution:

1. [Archives: U.S. Constitution](#)
2. [Kids Britannica: U.S. Constitution](#)
3. [Archives: Bill of Rights](#)

Information on laws/statutes regarding the teaching of equal rights of American citizens:

1. [Florida State Statute 1003.42: Required Instruction](#)