

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.2.CG.3.1 <i>Identify the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will recognize that the United States has a written constitution. ■ Students will identify the United States as a constitutional republic.

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.2.2 Describe the importance of voting in elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize that it is every citizen’s responsibility to vote. ● Students will explain the importance of voting in a republic legislature and governor).

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year. ● Teaching this benchmark with SS.2.CG.1.1 and SS.2.CG.1.2 helps students better understand the purpose of the U.S. Constitution and the role and function of

government.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

- What to know:
 - ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with identify and recognize
 - ◆ Identify and recognize can mean: name, connect, list
 - ◆ As the supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution serves as the framework for governance, establishing structure, function, and purpose
 - ◆ Article VI, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, known as the Supremacy Clause, establishes that the U.S. Constitution and federal laws are the supreme law of the land
 - ◆ The terms democracy and constitutional republic are not interchangeable
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ The United States has a written constitution
 - ◆ The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land
 - ◆ The United States is a constitutional republic
- Examples:
 - ◆ U.S. Constitution
 - An agreed-upon set of rules or laws
 - Supreme law of the land
 - Begins with “We the People”
 - ◆ Constitutional republic
 - a form of government in which there is democratic voting, but governmental power is limited by the existence of a constitution that protects the rights of citizens
 - Wording of the Pledge of Allegiance “...and to the Republic...”

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on the U.S. Constitution:

1. [Archives: U.S. Constitution](#)
 - a. [Supremacy Clause](#)
2. [Kids Britannica: U.S. Constitution](#)

Information on a constitutional republic:

1. [Britannica: Democracy or Republic](#)
2. [U.S. Embassy: U.S. Government](#)