



TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK	
SS.3.CG.1.2 <i>Describe how the U.S. government gains its power from the people.</i>	
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will recognize what is meant by “We the People” and “consent of the governed”. ■ Students will identify sources of consent (e.g., voting and elections). ■ Students will recognize that the U.S. republic is governed by the “consent of the governed” and government power is exercised through representatives of the people. 	

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
1st Grade	<p>SS.1.CG.2.4 Recognize symbols and individuals that represent the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize the national motto (“In God we trust”) and “We the People” as symbols that represent the U.S. ● Students will recognize Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Daniel Webster, and Martin Luther King, Jr. as individuals who represent the United States. <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 or laws. ● Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution starts with “We the People”.
2nd Grade	<p>SS.2.CG.1.1 Explain why people form governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will explain the role of laws in a government. ● Students will define and provide examples of laws at the state and national level. ● Students will use scenarios to identify the impact of government on daily life.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.1.1 Explain why the Florida government has a written constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize that every state has a state constitution. ● Students will explain the relationship between a written constitution, the government established and the citizens.
5th Grade	<p>SS.5.CG.1.3 Discuss arguments for adopting a representative form of government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will explain what is meant by a representative government.

TIMING PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year.
 - Note: September 17th is Constitution Day
 - An election year may impact the timing in which the teacher chooses to address this benchmark
- Teaching this benchmark alongside SS.3.CG.1.2, SS.3.CG.3.1 and SS.3.CG.3.2 may make content mastery more achievable for students.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

- What to know:
 - ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with recognize and identify
 - ◆ Recognize and identify can mean: name, list, match, or write
 - ◆ “Consent of the governed” is found in the Declaration of Independence
 - ◆ “We the People” is found in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution
 - ◆ “We the People” means that government depends on the people for its power and exists to serve them
 - ◆ A synonym for consent is approval
 - ◆ The main source of consent is through voting in elections and deciding who will govern
 - ◆ A constitutional republic is 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
 - ◆ A representative government involves electing officials to represent citizens’ ideas and concerns in government instead of each citizen participating directly in every decision made
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ Meaning of “We the People” and “consent of the governed” and where those phrases are found
 - ◆ Elections and voting as sources of consent
 - ◆ Government power is exercised through representatives of the people
- Examples:
 - ◆ “We the People”
 - U.S. Constitution Preamble
 - People give government its power
 - ◆ “Consent of the governed”
 - Declaration of Independence phrase
 - Approval is given for individuals to use governmental powers when citizens vote and elect them to various positions
 - ◆ Sources of consent
 - Elections
 - Voting
 - ◆ Representatives of the people
 - Elected officials in various government offices (president, governor, mayor, senators, representatives, council members, etc.)

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on government:

1. [Bill of Rights Institute: Purpose of Government](#)
2. [US Courts: Preamble](#)
3. [Representative vs. Direct Democracy](#)
4. [U.S. Embassy: U.S. Government](#)

Information on “We the People” and “Consent of the Governed” U.S. Constitution:

1. [Laws: We the People](#)
2. [Library of Congress: Declaration of Independence](#)
3. [Kids Britannica: U.S. Constitution](#)
4. [Archives: Bill of Rights](#)
5. [Library of Congress: The Founders and the Vote](#)