

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

<b>BENCHMARK</b>
<b>SS.3.CG.3.1</b> <i>Explain how the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish the structure, function, powers, and limits of government.</i>
<b>BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution establish the framework for national and state government.</li> <li>■ Students will recognize how government is organized at the national level (e.g., three branches of government).</li> <li>■ 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).</li> </ul>

<b>WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN</b>	
2nd Grade	<p>SS.2.CG.3.1 Identify the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will recognize that the United States has a written constitution.</li> <li>● Students will identify the United States as a constitutional republic.</li> </ul>
<b>WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING</b>	
4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.3.1 Explain the structure and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government in Florida.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will compare the powers of Florida’s three branches of government.</li> <li>● Students will explain how the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution protects the rights of citizens.</li> </ul>
5th Grade	<p>SS.5.CG.3.1 Describe the organizational structure and powers of the national government as defined in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will identify legislative, executive, and judicial branch functions of the U.S. government as defined in Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution.</li> <li>● Students will explain why the Constitution divides the national government into three branches.</li> </ul> <p>SS.5.CG.3.5 Explain how the U.S. Constitution influenced the Florida Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will identify the purpose of a constitution (e.g., provides a framework for government, limits government authority, protects the rights of the people).</li> <li>● Students will recognize the basic outline of the U.S. and Florida</li> </ul>

	Constitutions (both have articles, amendments, and preambles).
--	--

### TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any time throughout the school year.
  - Note: September 17th is Constitution Day
- 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
- ◆ Recognize can mean: name, list, match, or write
- ◆ Mastery of benchmark clarification #3 requires the students to be the ones providing examples of people who make and enforce rules and laws in the United States
- ◆ As the supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution serves as the framework for governance, establishing structure, function, and purpose
- ◆ Each state has their own constitution modeled after the U.S. Constitution
- ◆ The 10th amendment defines the concept of federalism, the relationship between the national and state governments
- ◆ The national level of government has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial
- ◆ National government and federal government are synonymous in this context
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution provides for a separation of powers and checks and balances between the three branches
- ◆ Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. Constitution contain the structure, function, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The concept of a constitution
- ◆ How the U.S. Constitution establishes structure, function, powers, and limits of government
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution applies to the United States as a whole, but each of the 50 states (Florida) has its own constitution as well
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution created the framework for national and state government
- ◆ Government at both the national and state level is organized into three branches
- ◆ Examples of those that make and enforce rules and laws at the national and state level

→ Examples:

- ◆ U.S. Constitution
- ◆ Florida Constitution
- ◆ Framework for government (Function)
  - Creation of three branches with a system of checks and balances
  - Division of power between national government and state governments

- Protection of individual rights and liberties of American citizens
- ◆ Organization of government (Structure)
  - Three branches
  - Executive, legislative, and judicial
- ◆ Role of each branch of government (Power)
  - Legislative: Makes the laws
  - Executive: Enforces the laws
  - Judicial: Interprets the laws
- ◆ Examples of people who make and enforce rules and laws
  - National Government:
    - Legislative (makes): U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate [Congress]
    - Executive (enforces): President, Vice-President
  - State Government:
    - Legislative (makes): Florida House of Representatives, Florida Senate [Florida Legislature]
    - Executive (enforces): Governor

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on government:

1. [Bill of Rights Institute: Purpose of Government](#)
2. [Three Branches of Government Diagram](#)

Information on national government:

1. [U.S. Constitution](#)
2. [USA.gov: Branches of Government](#)
3. [U.S. Congress](#)
4. [U.S. Executive](#)

Information on state government:

1. [Florida Constitution](#)
2. [White House: State and Local Government](#)
3. [Florida State Legislature](#)
4. [Florida Executive](#)