

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
<p>SS.4.CG.3.1 <i>Explain the structure and function of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government in Florida.</i></p>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will compare the powers of Florida’s three branches of government. ■ Students will explain how the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution protects the rights of citizens.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd Grade	<p>SS.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 the 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 the 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.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
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"> ● Students will identify legislative, executive, and judicial branch functions of the U.S. government as defined in Articles I, II, & III of the U.S. Constitution. ● Students will explain why the Constitution divides the national government into three branches. <p>SS.5.CG.3.2 Analyze how the U.S. Constitution & Bill of Rights limit the power of the national government and protect citizens from an oppressive government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize examples of what to include, but not be limited to, popular sovereignty, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, the amendment process, and the fundamental rights of citizens in the Bill of Rights.

TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point in the school year.
- Teaching this benchmark along with SS.4.CG.1.1, SS.4.CG.2.3, and SS.4.CG.3.2 may make content mastery more achievable for students.
- Structure and function of the state level of government is addressed in both SS.4.CG.3.1 and SS.4.CG.3.2.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

- What to know:
 - ◆ Explain can mean: tell, write, clarify, and describe
 - ◆ Compare can mean: note the similarities or differences between and differentiate
 - ◆ The structure and function of the three branches of the Florida government are similar to the structure and function of the three branches of the U.S. government
 - ◆ The Florida Constitution serves as the framework for governance in the state, establishing the structure, function, and powers of each branch
 - ◆ Structure refers to organization between branches and within branches of government
 - ◆ Function refers to the roles and responsibilities of each branch of government
 - ◆ Teaching each branch of government separately and then moving to comparisons allows students to more easily achieve benchmark mastery
 - ◆ The Florida Declaration of Rights has many enumerated rights that are the same, or similar to, the rights enumerated in the U.S. Bill of Rights
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ 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 structure and function of each branch of Florida's government
 - ◆ Comparisons between the three branches of Florida's government
 - ◆ The Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution protects the rights of Florida citizens
- Examples:
 - ◆ Florida Constitution
 - ◆ Florida Legislative Branch
 - Two house (bicameral)
 - Florida House of Representatives (120 seats, 2 year terms)
 - Florida Senate (40 seats, 4 year terms)
 - Both houses are term limited to 8 years each (members can serve 8 years in each house, consecutive or non-consecutive) over their lives
 - Considered a part-time legislature: meets 60 days each year (Even years they meet January - March; Odd years they meet March-May)
 - Functions:
 - Makes and passes bills, sets state budget and tax legislation with governor, power to initiate articles of impeachment

- ◆ Florida Executive Branch
 - Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Agricultural Commissioner
 - Functions of Governor:
 - Sign/veto bills, fills Florida court vacancies, declares and coordinates state emergencies
 - Functions of the cabinet and agencies of the executive branch:
 - Oversees the state department/agency assigned to them
- ◆ Florida Judicial Branch
 - Florida Supreme Court, District Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, County Courts
 - Functions:
 - Handle civil and criminal cases, hears appeals from lower courts, determines constitutionality of Florida laws
- ◆ Florida Declaration of Rights
 - Listed in Article I of the Florida Constitution
 - 27 sections of rights are outlined
 - Many match the Bill of Rights
 - Amended several times, most recently in 2008

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on Florida's Government:

1. [White House: State & Local Government](#)
2. [Florida Government Chart](#)
3. [OPPAGA: Florida Program Summary Chart](#)
4. [Florida Constitution: Declaration of Rights](#)
5. [US Courts: Federal and State Courts](#)
6. [Florida State Legislature](#)
7. [Florida Executive](#)
8. [Florida Judicial Branch](#)
9. [Florida Constitution](#)