

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.5.CG.1.3 <i>Discuss arguments for adopting a representative form of government.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will explain what is meant by a representative government.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.1.2 Describe how the U.S. government gains its power from the people.</p> <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.
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. <p>SS.4.CG.2.3 Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the state level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will identify their local state senator and state representative. ● Students will identify appropriate methods for communicating with elected officials. ● Students will recognize that Florida has a representative government.
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SS.7.CG.3.1 ● SS.7.CG.3.2

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This benchmark may be taught during any point in the school year.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK
<p>→ What to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Discuss and explain can mean: write, connect, or justify

- ◆ Representative government and representative democracy are used synonymously in this context
 - ◆ Based on colonial experience with the British monarchy, the Founders wanted a form of government that allowed for more input from citizens
 - ◆ Some forms of government (e.g., direct democracy) were not practical due to the size of the United States
 - ◆ All Founders/Framers did not agree on a perfect form of government but desired avoiding historical issues with: factions, special interests, oligarchs, despots, monarchy, weak central government, and mob rule
 - ◆ Influences included: Greeks, Romans, John Locke, Baron de Montesquieu, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, English Bill of Rights, and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*
 - ◆ Distinguishing features of the United States' constitutional republic not found in authoritarian/totalitarian forms of government include: checks and balances, consent of the governed, democracy, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative government, republicanism, rule of law, and separation of powers
- Main concepts to teach:
- ◆ The definition/concept of representative government
 - ◆ The reasons why the Framers of the United States Constitution chose a representative form of government
- Examples:
- ◆ A representative government involves electing officials to represent citizens' ideas and concerns in government instead of each citizen voting directly for every decision made
 - ◆ Elections for president, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, state senators and representatives, mayors, school board members, etc.
 - ◆ "We the People"; "consent of the governed"; "a government of the people, by the people, for the people"

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on representative government:

1. [Representative Government Graphic](#)
2. [Britannica: Representative Government](#)
3. [FJCC: Teacher Background Information](#)

Information on the Constitutional Convention:

1. [Library of Congress: James Madison & the Convention](#)
2. [National Park Service: A Day By Day Account June 1787](#)

Arguments for adopting a representative form of government:

1. [The Federalist Papers](#)
 - a. Consent of Governed [Federalist 1]
 - b. Checks and Balances [Federalist 51]
 - c. Factions [Federalist 10]
 - d. Separation of Powers [Federalist 47]