

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
<p><b>SS.5.CG.2.4</b> <i>Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States' constitutional republic.</i></p>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Students will explain what it means for the United States to be a constitutional republic.</li> <li>■ Students will identify duties (e.g., obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury) and responsibilities (e.g., voting, keeping informed on public issues) that citizens are expected to fulfill.</li> <li>■ Students will explain what could happen to the United States if citizens did not fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities.</li> </ul>

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.2.1 Identify and describe how citizens work with state and local governments to solve problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will explain how public issues, such as taxation, roads, zoning, and schools impact citizens' daily lives.</li> <li>● Students will describe how citizens can help solve community and state problems (e.g., attending government meetings, communicating with their elected representatives).</li> </ul> <p>SS.4.CG.2.2 Explain the importance of voting, public service, and volunteerism to the state and nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will explain how voting, public service, and volunteerism contribute to the preservation of the republic.</li> <li>● Students will discuss different types of public service and volunteerism.</li> </ul>
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.2.2</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.2.6</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.3.1</a></li> </ul>

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year.</li> <li>● This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.5.CG.2.2, SS.5.CG.2.3, and SS.5.CG.2.5 to create a larger unit on civic and political participation.</li> <li>● Benchmark clarification #1 may be taught with SS.5.CG.1.2 and SS.5.CG.1.3 as these address the foundations and establishment of the United States form of government.</li> </ul>

## UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

### → What to know:

- ◆ Evaluate can mean: examine, explain, justify, or write
- ◆ Explain can mean: write, connect, or justify
- ◆ Identify can mean: list, name, or match
- ◆ The term constitutional republic has been utilized in benchmarks beginning in second grade
  - The terms democracy and constitutional republic are not interchangeable
- ◆ In the United States, citizenship comes with rights, obligations, and responsibilities
- ◆ Civic duties are actions that citizens are required to take by law
- ◆ Responsibilities are actions that citizens take in order to benefit their community
- ◆ Many of the founders believed citizens must have certain civic virtues in order for the U.S. Constitution and system of government they established to work

### → Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The United States is a constitutional republic
- ◆ Examples of civic duties
- ◆ Examples of civic responsibilities
- ◆ What could happen to the United States if citizens did not fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities

### → Examples:

- ◆ Constitutional republic
  - 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
  - Wording of the Pledge of Allegiance "...and to the Republic..."
- ◆ Civic Duties
  - "Must Do"
  - Also referred to as obligations
  - Obeying the law, serving on juries, paying taxes, registering for Selective Service
- ◆ Civic Responsibilities
  - "Nice to Do" (Responsible citizens should do these)
  - Informed voting, knowledge of public issues, attending civic meetings, volunteering, running for office
- ◆ Implications of ignoring civic duties and responsibilities
  - Legal consequences for failing to show up to jury duty, breaking laws, not paying taxes, etc.
  - Hurt the common good
  - Chaos, lack of safety, no money for programs/services, no one to defend the nation, a government that represents only a few voices, difficulty making changes to benefit people, etc.

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on a constitutional republic:

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

Information on civic duties and responsibilities:

1. [FJCC-Obligations & Responsibilities](#)
2. [Florida Supervisors of Elections: Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities](#)
3. [Bill of Rights Institute: Civic Virtues](#)
4. [Florida Courts: Jury Duty](#)
5. [Selective Service](#)