

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
<p><b>SS.5.CG.3.2</b> <i>Analyze how the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the national government and protect citizens from an oppressive government.</i></p>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Students will recognize examples of what to include, but not 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.</li> </ul>

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.1.1 Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes the purpose and fulfills the need for government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will explain the purpose and need of and need for government in terms of protection of rights, organization, security, and services.</li> </ul> <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"> <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 the laws in the United States (e.g., congress and president) and Florida (e.g., state legislature and governor).</li> </ul>
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.1.9</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.2.4</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.C.3.4</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.3.5</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>● The content vocabulary used in this benchmark may be broken up and integrated into other lessons that address these concepts as well:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Popular sovereignty [5.CG.1.3; 5.CG.2.3; 5.CG.2.4]</li> <li>○ Rule of law [5.CG.3.1; 5.CG.3.3]</li> <li>○ Separation of powers [5.CG.3.1; 5.CG.3.5]</li> <li>○ Checks and balances [5.CG.3.1; 5.CG.3.5]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Federalism [5.CG.3.5; 5.CG.3.6]
- Amendment process [5.CG.3.4]
- Bill of Rights [5.CG.1.4; 5.CG.2.6]

## UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ Analyze can mean: explain, justify, argue, or write
- ◆ Recognize can mean: name, associate, match, or list
- ◆ Many of the examples in the benchmark clarification have been addressed conceptually in previous grades. However, exact terminology may not have been used
- ◆ This benchmark requires students to master a definitional and conceptual understanding of how the ideas associated with limited government protect the rights of citizens from governmental oppression
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution
  - An agreed-upon set of rules or laws
  - Supreme law of the land
  - Starts with “We the People”
  - Establishes a constitutional republic
- ◆ The Bill of Rights
  - First ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution
  - Ratified December 15, 1791
  - Ensures greater protection of individual rights
- ◆ Federal government and national government are used synonymously here

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The ways in which the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the national government
- ◆ The ways in which the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights protect the rights of citizens from an oppressive government

→ Examples:

- ◆ Popular sovereignty
  - Government authority is based on the consent of the people
- ◆ Rule of law
  - The idea that those who govern must follow the laws; no one is above the law
- ◆ Separation of powers
  - Establishment of three branches of government, each with their own distinct structure, function, and powers/responsibilities (legislative, executive, judicial)
- ◆ Checks and balances
  - The ability of each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches
  - Examples:
    - Congress makes laws, but the president can veto
    - The courts can declare laws made unconstitutional
- ◆ Federalism
  - A system of government in which power is divided and shared between

- national, state, and local governments
  - Outlined in Article IV and the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- ◆ Amendment process
  - Creating a change to a constitution
  - Outlined in Article V of the U.S. Constitution
  - Two-thirds of each house of Congress can vote to amend the U.S. Constitution, followed by three-fourths of the state legislatures approving the amendment OR a national convention where two-thirds of all states are represented votes to introduce an amendment followed by three-fourths of the state legislatures approving the amendment
- ◆ The Bill of Rights:
  - First 10 Amendments
  - Safeguards individual rights and offers protection from the national government infringing on those rights
  - Civil rights and liberties
    - speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government (Amendment 1)
  - Right to bear arms (Amendment 2)
  - No quartering troops (Amendment 3)
  - Due process of law
    - Amendments 4-8
  - Reserves powers not delegated in the Constitution to the national government to the people or the states
    - Amendments 9 & 10

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights:

1. [White House: The Constitution](#)
2. [FJCC: Bill of Rights Teacher Content Background Knowledge](#)
3. [Bill of Rights Institute: The Bill of Rights](#)

Information on constitutional limits of governmental power:

1. [FJCC: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances](#)

Information on federalism:

1. [FJCC: Federalism](#)

Information on the amendment process:

1. [FJCC: Amending the U.S. Constitution](#)