

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

### BENCHMARK

**SS.5.CG.3.5** *Explain how the U.S. Constitution influenced the Florida Constitution.*

### BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will identify the purpose of a constitution (e.g., provides a framework for government, limits government authority, protects the rights of the people).
- Students will recognize the basic outline of the U.S. and Florida Constitutions (both have articles, amendments, and preambles).

### 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"> <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>
4th Grade	<p>SS.4.CG.1.1 Explain why the Florida government has a written Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will recognize that every state has a constitution.</li> <li>● Students will explain the relationship between a written constitution, the government established, and the citizens.</li> </ul>

### WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">SS.7.CG.3.12</a></li> </ul>
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### TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year.
  - Note: September 17th is Constitution Day
- This benchmark contains content vocabulary also addressed in SS.5.CG.3.2.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with recognize and identify
  - ◆ Identify and recognize can mean: name, list, write, or match
  - ◆ Constitutions are an agreed-upon set of rules or laws
  - ◆ Constitutions serve as framework for governance, establishing structure, function, and purpose
  - ◆ The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land
  - ◆ Each state has their own constitution modeled after the U.S. Constitution
  - ◆ The U.S. and Florida Constitutions are divided into three parts: the preamble, the articles, and the amendments
  - ◆ Both constitutions: have nearly identical preambles, structures of government (separation of powers/checks and balances), establish elected representative governments, and contain a bill of rights
- Main concepts to teach:
- ◆ The purpose of a constitution
  - ◆ The similarities between the basic outlines of the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution
- Examples:
- ◆ Purpose of a constitution
    - Provides a framework for government, limits government authority, and protects the rights of citizens
  - ◆ Structure of U.S. Constitution and Florida Constitution
    - Preamble:
      - Provides an outline of the goals and purpose of government
      - Both start with “We the People”
    - Articles:
      - Provides a framework for the structure, power, and function of the government
      - U.S. Constitution has seven articles
      - The Florida Constitution has twelve articles
    - Amendments:
      - Lists additions or alterations to the constitution
      - U.S. Constitution was last amended in 1992 (amended 27 times total since 1787)
      - The Florida Constitution was last amended in 2020 (amended 144 times total since 1968)
      - Amendments are placed throughout the entire Florida Constitution (unlike the U.S. Constitution)
      - The process for amending the Florida Constitution is simpler
    - Both include a protection of rights
      - U.S. Constitution = Bill of Rights
      - Florida Constitution = Declaration of Rights

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on the constitutions:

1. [U.S. Constitution](#)
2. [Florida Constitution](#)
3. [iCivics: Comparing Constitutions](#)