

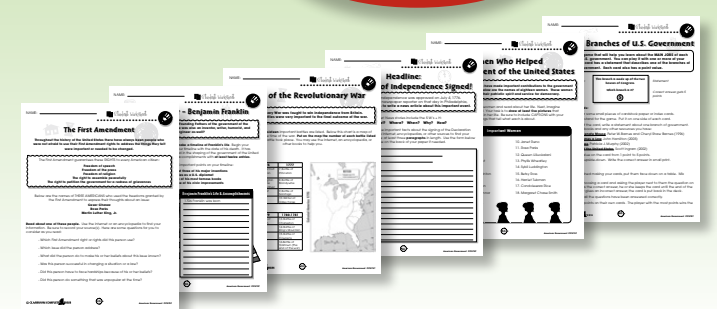
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# What Is Government?

1. Use a straight line to match each word to its meaning. Use a dictionary to help.

rights	able to control someone or something	A
leader	the person or people who make the rules or laws for everyone else	B
power	to create or pass laws	C
authority	to make or keep safe from danger, attack, or harm	D
legislate	one who is in charge or in command of others	E
enforce	something that is due to a person or government by law, tradition, or nature	F
defend	the power that someone has because of custom, law, or consent of those being governed	G
government	to command obedience to	H

2. Complete each sentence with the correct term from the list. Use a dictionary to help.

security    conflict    consent    common good    necessary

- A system of government is \_\_\_\_\_ to keep order in society.
- When two people or two countries disagree about something, they have a \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
- A government that looks out for the well-being of all its citizens works for the \_\_\_\_\_ of everyone in the country.
- Giving your approval is another way of saying that you give your \_\_\_\_\_.
- A government should provide for the safety or \_\_\_\_\_ of its citizens.



# What Is Government?

Each nation in the world has some form of government. The person or group of people who makes the rules or laws for everyone else is called a **government**. This person or group has the power or **authority** to do this. The **leader** or leaders of a government are the ones who take charge and make plans. Leaders can be chosen by the people or they can use force to take charge. There are many kinds of governments in the world.

**Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed....**

Thomas Jefferson,  
The Declaration of Independence, 1776

## Why Do We Need Governments?

Imagine what life would be like if there were no rules. People could do or say anything they wanted. They could take your things or hurt you and no one would punish them. Now think what a country full of people would be like with no rules or laws. This isn't a pleasant thought, is it? A government is **necessary** to protect our **rights**.

A government should **defend** or **keep** its citizens safe. Doing this is called looking out for the **common good** of the people. Governments **legislate** or make and **enforce** laws to make sure all the people are treated fairly and with dignity. Sometimes two or more countries have **conflicts** or disagreements with each other that may even lead to a war.

**STOP** Why do you think people need some kind of government? Give at least three reasons.

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# What Is Government?

1. Fill in each blank with the correct term from the list. Some terms will be left over.

rights    leader    power    authority    legislate    enforce    necessary  
defend    government    security    conflicts    consent    common good

Suppose you want to start a brand new country. Your first step would be to make sure of the people's safety or \_\_\_\_\_. To do this, you would need to appoint the person or group of people who would make the rules or laws for everyone else. This group is also called the \_\_\_\_\_.

Governments are \_\_\_\_\_ to keep order in society. They provide a system of rules or laws to follow when people have disagreements or \_\_\_\_\_. with each other. The \_\_\_\_\_ of this country is the one who is in charge or in command of all the others. This person in charge will have the \_\_\_\_\_ or power to give orders to other members of the government. Everyone in the government should work for the \_\_\_\_\_ or well-being of all of the citizens. Some of the citizens will \_\_\_\_\_ or keep from danger, the rest of the people. Hopefully, this country of yours will be successful.

- Why do you think it is **very important** to make sure that all of the citizens of a country are safe?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If two countries have a conflict with each other, name **two** ways they can resolve or settle it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How are those who serve in the government selected in your country?  
\_\_\_\_\_



Here are six writing tasks about the government of the United States. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the United States government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- Task #1 Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. Organize your thoughts and knowledge about government and discuss the purpose(s) of government. In the United States' system of government, who or what are most important?
- Task #2 The Constitution of the United States has a very important purpose for its government. What is that purpose? What is the Constitution sometimes called?
- Task #3 The Declaration of Independence states that all citizens have certain rights. What are three of these rights? What document gives the citizens these and other rights?
- Task #4 Rights always come along with responsibilities. Think about the rights you discussed in Writing Task 3 as well as others. Discuss at least one of the responsibilities that comes along with them.
- Task #5 All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, poverty). If you were president of the United States, which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?
- Task #6 The powers of all three branches of the U.S. government are equal. What document limits the powers of each branch? What is this limiting of powers called? Do you think that these limitations are good or bad? Tell why.



# Crossword Puzzle!

**Word List**

impeach	rights
enforce	nine
ratify	elected
Congress	nominate
government	Senate
House	resign
ben	George
democracy	good
	power
	term
	defend
	anarchy
	veto

**Across**

- The person or group of people who make the rules or laws for everyone else
- In the United States government, leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ or chosen by the people
- The ability to control someone or something
- To put the president on trial
- Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the \_\_\_\_\_
- To keep safe from danger or attack
- Privileges that are due to people by law
- To approve a rule or a law
- To say no to a proposed law or bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ Franklin
- \_\_\_\_\_ Washington

**Down**

- A government should provide for the common \_\_\_\_\_ of its citizens
- To command obedience to
- The number of justices (judges) on the U.S. Supreme Court
- Length of time in elected office
- Makes federal laws
- Exists when there is no government in a country
- To choose or select
- A form of government in which the people choose who governs them
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Representatives
- To quit or leave office



# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- |            |           |                |          |
|------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| government | powers    | anarchy        | resign   |
| veto       | branch    | ratify         | laws     |
| Congress   | legislate | run            | leader   |
| vote       | election  | party          | debate   |
| checks     | democracy | justice        | war      |
| senator    | president | constitutional | clerk    |
| bill       | poll      | judges         | campaign |

g	a	b	c	d	e	f	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	n	p	q	
r	o	s	t	u	s	m	s	e	t	w	j	u	d	g	e	s		
r	x	v	y	r	z	a	b	c	a	e	r	u	g	h	i	i	w	
j	a	k	e	l	l	m	c	h	e	c	k	s	n	o	s	p	a	
q	r	w	s	r	t	o	u	y	w	y	t	z	a	e	b	l		
c	o	d	e	f	n	g	h	l	o	j	k	i	l	m	r	n	o	
p	p	q	r	g	s	m	t	t	u	v	w	c	x	y	z	a	b	
c	d	e	r	f	g	h	e	i	j	k	l	e	t	a	b	e	d	
m	n	e	o	p	q	v	r	s	e	t	c	u	v	w	e	x		
y	s	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	t	g	l	h	i	j	m	k	l	
s	m	n	o	p	e	q	r	o	s	e	t	e	u	o	v	w	x	
y	z	a	b	c	m	o	v	e	r	f	g	h	c	i	j	k	n	
l	m	l	n	o	e	p	q	k	r	s	t	r	u	t	v	o	w	
x	s	e	n	a	t	o	r	y	z	a	a	b	c	d	i	e	f	
g	h	a	i	j	a	k	l	m	n	c	o	n	p	t	q	o	r	
s	t	d	u	v	l	w	x	y	y	z	a	b	a	c	d	e	n	
h	f	e	a	n	s	i	j	k	l	m	n	n	o	r	p	q	r	
c	s	r	a	i	f	y	n	g	i	a	p	m	a	c	t	u		
n	v	w	x	y	g	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	h	j	
a	k	l	p	r	e	s	i	d	e	n	t	m	n	o	p	q	y	
r	r	s	o	t	l	u	v	w	x	y	z	p	a	r	t	y	a	
b	i	l	l	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	u	l	m	n	
o	p	q	l	a	n	o	i	t	u	t	i	t	s	n	o	c	r	



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part A

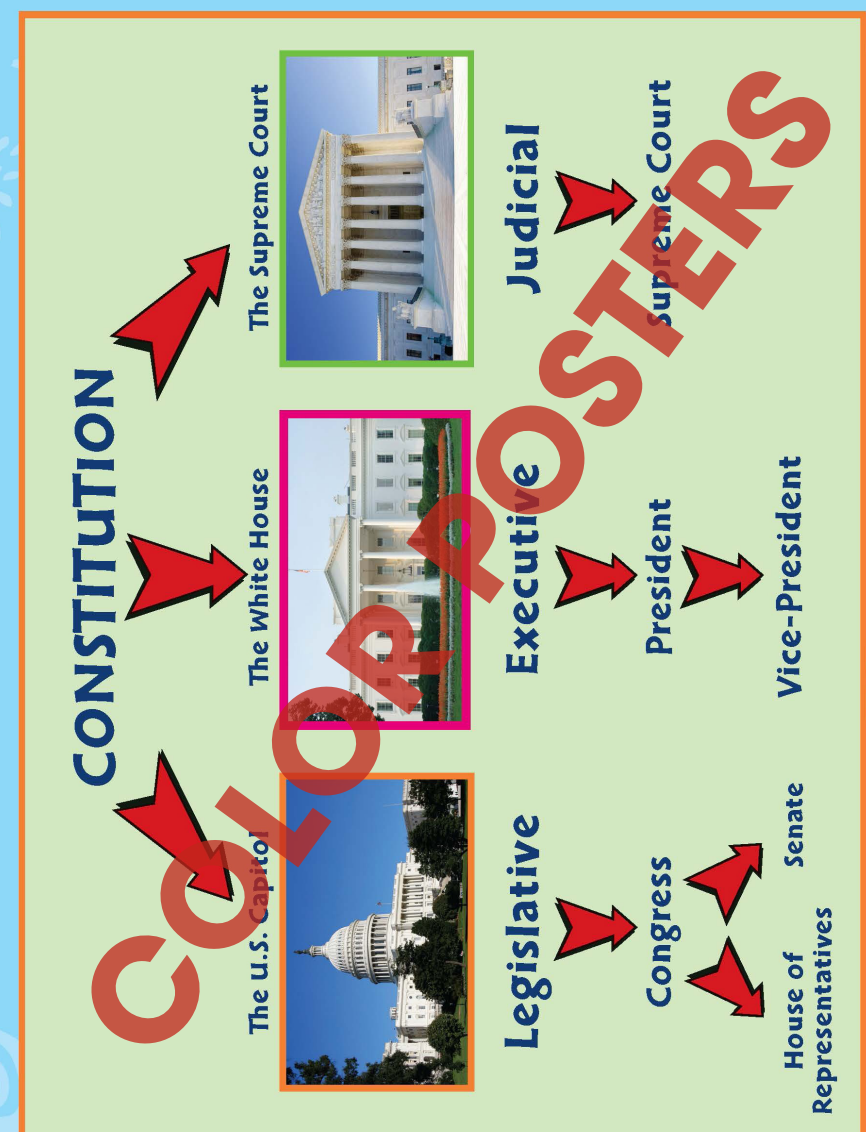


Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Declaration of Independence was written after the Revolutionary War in order to set up a government for the new country.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Many men helped write the Constitution of the United States.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Supreme Law of the United States is the Declaration of Independence.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The only way to change the Constitution of the United States is by the vote of the Supreme Court.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Supreme Court is the only branch of government in which the people cannot directly vote for its members.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The executive branch of government includes the vice-president and his staff.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL: /10

# The Federal Government





## Writing Tasks



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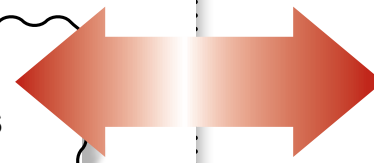
Answers will vary

### Across:

- 1. government
- 5. elected
- 6. power
- 7. impeach
- 11. Senate
- 12. defend
- 13. rights
- 14. ratify
- 17. veto
- 18. Ben
- 19. George

### Down:

- 1. good
- 2. enforce
- 3. nine
- 4. term
- 8. Congress
- 9. anarchy
- 10. nominate
- 12. democracy
- 15. House
- 16. resign



# EASY MARKING

# ANSWER KEY



11

