



TEACHER GUIDE

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STUDENT HANDOUTS

• Reading Comprehension	
1. What Is Government?	
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5. System of Checks and Balances	
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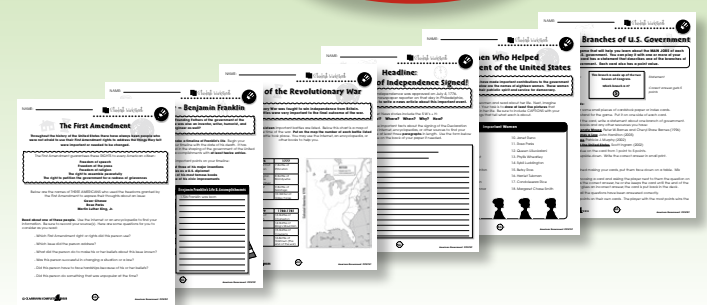
EASY MARKING™ ANSWER KEY 17

MINI POSTERS 19

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Electing a Government

Write the correct term in each blank. You may use your dictionary if you wish.

electors candidate requirements to run for the presidency presides
 eight requirements to run for the vice-presidency the Vice-President
 political party primary elections nominate presidential term
 campaign major political parties in the U.S. Senate term election
 House of Representatives term state governments consecutive

1. Democrats and Republicans
2. succeeds the president if he is not able to serve
3. the activities which are designed to help a person get elected to public office
4. to select or choose
5. a person who wants to hold public office
6. directs or runs
7. one after the other
8. six years
9. a group with the same ideas about running the government
10. four years
11. people who belong to the Electoral College
12. the time when citizens vote for the candidates of their choice
13. born in the U.S., at least 35 years old, and have lived in the U.S. for 14 years.
14. two years
15. generally are set up in the same manner as the federal government



Electing a Government

Since the United States is a democracy, all of its government leaders are elected, or chosen by the citizens. The Constitution states all the requirements for each federal office. These must be fulfilled before a person can run for the office. A candidate for President or Vice-President of the United States must: **(1) be a citizen born in the United States, (2) be at least 35 years old, and (3) have lived in the United States for the last fourteen years. The office of the vice-president is also very important because the vice-president is the person who takes over as president if something happens that makes the president unable to serve.** The Constitution also sets the term limits for all federal offices. The President can only serve **two consecutive terms** (a total of eight years). The presidential elections are held every four years. Elections for the Senate are held every six years and those for the House of Representatives are held every two years. A person who runs for a political office is called a **candidate**.

Put on Your Thinking Cap! A president can only serve two terms (eight years). When would this limit be very important – when someone was doing a very good job as president or when someone was doing a very bad job as president? Why?

Political Parties

In the United States there are two main political parties made up of groups of people who share the same ideas about how they think the government should be conducted. These parties are the **Democrats** and the **Republicans**.



Electing a Government

1. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

- a) In a democracy only a few of the government leaders are elected by the citizens.
True False
- b) A person who was born in Canada could become President of the United States.
True False
- c) A presidential term lasts for four years.
True False
- d) A person must be 40 years old to run for president of the United States.
True False
- e) Primary elections are held when more than one person desires the same political office.
True False
- f) It is not very difficult to run for the presidency of the United States.
True False

2. Write each term beside its meaning.

electors candidate campaign major political parties in the U.S.
 Vice-President House of Representatives term presidential term

- a) Democrats and Republicans
- b) Becomes president if the president cannot serve for some reason
- c) Four years
- d) A person who is running for public office
- e) Two years
- f) Activities which are designed to help a person get elected to public office.
- g) People who belong to the Electoral College



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
sen	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!

g	a	b	c	d	e	f	h	i	j	k	l	n	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	d	e	f	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	x	y	t	z	a	e	b	l	
c	o	d	e	f	n	g	h	i	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	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 B

Answer each question in complete sentences.

- Explain why the framers of the Constitution built a system of **checks and balances** into the three branches of government. 1

- Briefly tell how a bill becomes a federal law. 3

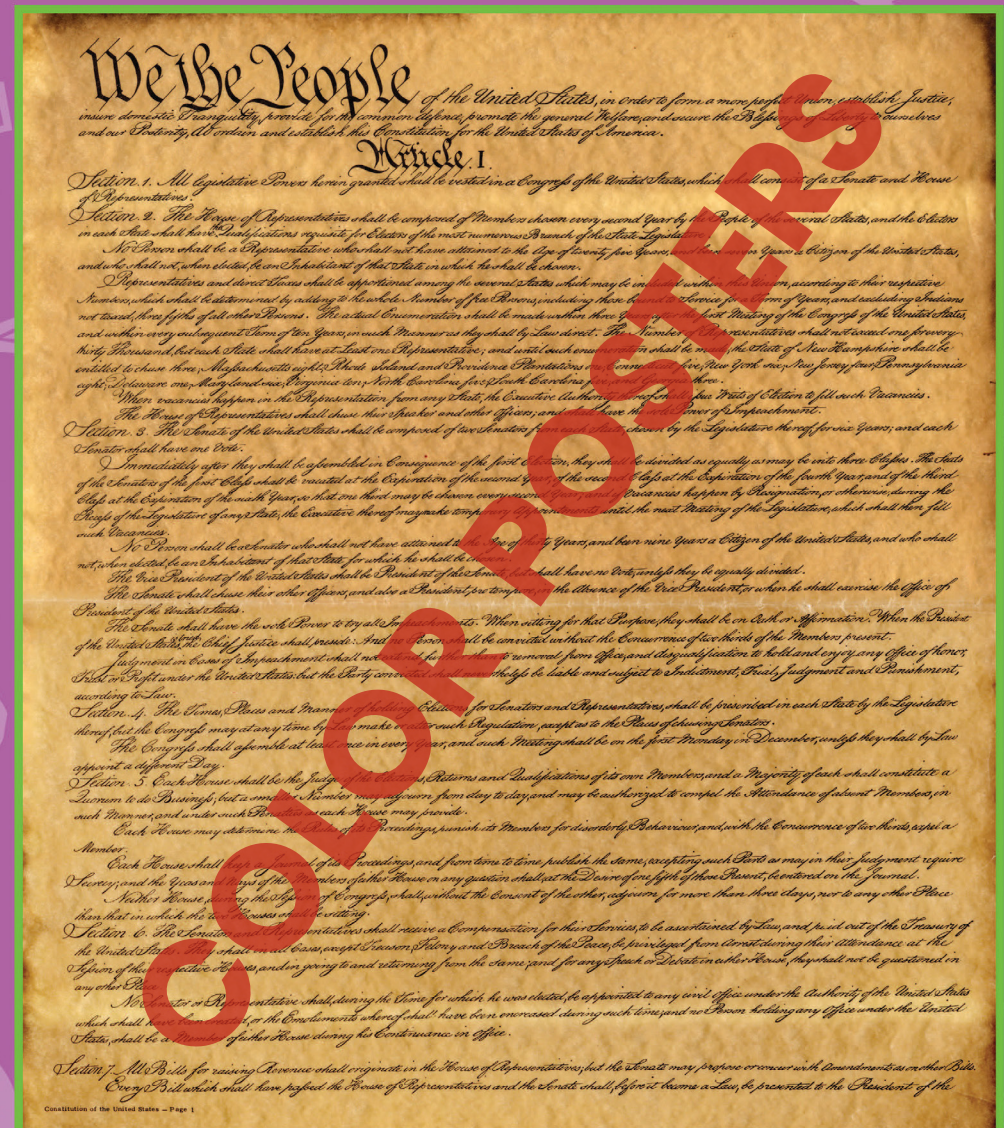
- Describe the qualifications a person must have to run for **president** or **vice-president** of the United States. 3

- Name each **branch** of the federal government and tell what each one does. 6

- What form(s) of government is the best for its citizens and why? 2

SUBTOTAL: /15

The Constitution of the United States



NAME: _____

After You Read 



Electing a Government

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. Describe at least three reasons that could keep a person who would like to be president of the United States from running for that office. (Hint – remember the requirements stated in the Constitution and also what it takes to run a campaign for the presidency.)

4. Before 1951 presidents could serve for many terms. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected four times! The **Twenty-second Amendment** limited a president's consecutive terms to two terms. Tell why you think this amendment was passed.

5. What do we call the chief executive of a state? Discuss some of the jobs that you think a state chief executive would have.

6. Describe the qualities you think that a person who wants to be the President of the United States should have.

7. Become a Research Detective!

Use your reference books or the Internet to find out how many Presidents of the United States have not completed their terms in office and why. List the name of the president, the reason for not completing the term, and the cause for not completing the term.

3. _____
age, place of birth,
resources, etc.

4. _____
to restrict power

5. _____
governor

6. _____
Because the Vice
President has to
take over for the
President if he is
unable to serve

7. _____
Accept verified
answers

11. _____
Answers will vary

12. _____

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

13. _____

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

