

UNIT 5: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>Focus</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Understand the three branches of Government as outlined in the US Constitution (their structure, function, powers, interdependence &amp; interactions)</p> </div>	<p><u>INTEGRATED COURSE STANDARDS:</u></p>	<p><u>RESOURCE OPTIONS:</u></p>
<p><b><u>VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS</u></b></p> <p><b>Legislative:</b> Bicameral, Census, Constituent, Standing Committee, Expressed Powers, Implied Powers, Elastic Clause, Impeach, Writ of Habeas Corpus, Bill of Attainder, Ex Post Facto Law, Lobbyist, Joint Resolution, Special Interest Group, Filibuster</p> <p><b>Executive:</b> Veto, Pocket Veto, Electoral College, Elector, Executive Order, Pardon, Amnesty, Foreign Policy, National Security, Treaty, Executive Agreement, Ambassador, Trade Sanction, Embargo, Cabinet, Federal Bureaucracy</p> <p><b>Judicial:</b> Circuit, Jurisdiction (original, appellate, concurrent, exclusive), Remand, Uphold, Overturn, Precedent, Judicial Review, Constitutional Law, Brief, Opinions (majority, concurring, dissenting), Stare Decisis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>UNIT OBJECTIVES/MAJOR TOPICS</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and analyze the structure, function and powers of the legislative branch of government.</li> <li>2. Understand the process of passing federal legislation.</li> <li>3. Recognize the responsibility of elected officials as representatives of their constituency.</li> <li>4. Identify and analyze the structure, function, and powers of the executive branch of government.</li> <li>5. Recognize the role of the Electoral College.</li> <li>6. Examine current U.S. foreign policy.</li> <li>7. Identify and analyze the structure, function, and powers of the judicial branch of government.</li> <li>8. Analyze the various levels and responsibilities of courts in the federal judicial system and explain federal supremacy</li> <li>9. Interpret and debate landmark US Supreme Court Cases (Marbury v Madison; Plessey v Ferguson; Brown v Board; Gideon v Wainwright; Miranda v Arizona; Tinker v Des Moines; Hazelwood v Kuhlmer; US v Nixon; Bush v Gore)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics and You</u> textbook and supplemental resources – Chapters 6, 7 &amp; 8</li> <li>• <i>We the People</i> (Lessons 15, 16, 21, 22)</li> <li>• <i>The Living Constitution</i> ( Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5), Case Studies (pages 14, 20, 28) Profile (page 32)</li> <li>• <i>School House Rock</i></li> <li>• United Streaming</li> <li>• CSPAN</li> <li>• <i>House Mouse and Senate Mouse &amp; Duck for President</i> (children's books)</li> <li>• <i>Project Citizen</i> – letter writing to representatives</li> <li>• Websites – Constitution Center, Library of Congress, Senate, House of Representatives</li> <li>• Ongoing Integration of Units 9, 10 &amp; 11</li> <li>• State Statutes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1003.42(b) – US Constitution and Amendments</li> <li>o 1003.42(h) – History of African-Americans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**IMPLEMENTATION METHODS & APPLIED ACTIVITIES:**

- **Suggested Activities**
  - Graphic Organizers
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Identify and communicate with appropriate elected officials to effect public policy – identify current leaders and “write to them” activity
  - Trace a bill through the federal law making process
  - Examine pending legislation and communicate your opinion to your elected officials
  - Evaluate current case work from your elected officials
  - Examine the US foreign policy towards different countries and complete a project or have debates (embargos, War in Iraq, Nuclear Proliferation, international aide, maritime law, ethnic conflicts)
  - Case Studies – “You be the judge”
  - Follow a case through the federal judicial system
  - Write an opinion on a ruling by the US Supreme Court
  - Research, create and present PowerPoint presentations on landmark US Supreme Court cases
  - Electoral College – simulation, dramatizations, maps, current events, debates, class discussions
  
- **Simulations**
  - Gerrymandering Simulation
  - Mock Legislative Session
  - How a Bill becomes a law activity
  - Electoral College – simulation, dramatizations, maps, current events, debates, class discussions
  - Create a mock news report on a selected Supreme court Case
  
- **Guest Speakers**
  - Lawyer, Judge, professors
  
- **Discussion Topics**
  - Current Events dealing with each of the three branches
  - Keep abreast of current issues and standings of national campaigns
  - Discuss the candidates and where they stand on issues.
  - Look at current standings of the US population from polling data
  - Discuss Amendments that impact the Legislative, Executive & Judicial Branches
  - Discussion of *Plessey v Ferguson* and *Brown v Board* – show impact of decision on minority groups (Norfolk 17 and Little Rock 9)
  
- **Videos**
  - *School House Rock* “I’m Just a Bill”
  - View and analyze Presidential speeches