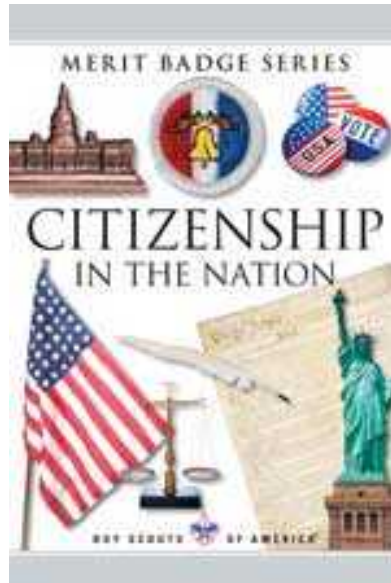


Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge



2005 Requirements
PPP by Gary Anderson

What is a Citizen

- **Citizenship in the Nation means...**
 - Treating others the way you would want to be treated.
 - Obeying the laws.
 - Protecting the private property of others.
 - A good citizen is an informed citizen.
 - Knowing the national issues.
- **Citizens' duties**
 - Vote in elections
 - Pay taxes
 - Serve on a jury
 - Register for the draft.

And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country.

-President John F. Kennedy

Visit or Research a National Landmark, Monument, or Federal Facility (Homework)

Do two of the following

1. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counsellor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
2. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
3. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
4. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Watch the national evening news five days in a row **or** read the front page of a major daily news paper five days in a row (Homework)

- Record the name of the station you watched or the newspaper you read.
- Discuss the national issues that you learned about.
- Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

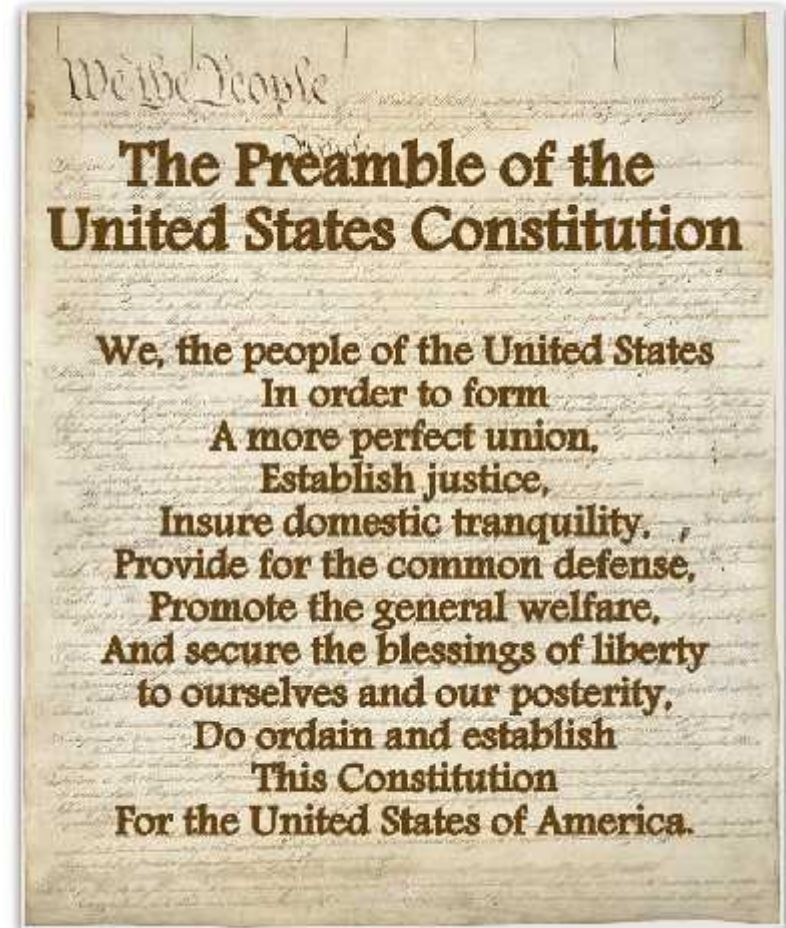
Declaration of Independence

- Was the final declaration of freedom from the rule of Britain.
- Its beginning talks about the right of the people in overthrowing tyranny.
- Goes into a series of strongly worded complaints against King George III.
- Without the Declaration of Independence there wouldn't be a United States.



Preamble to the Constitution

- Basically a table of contents for the Constitution.
- Outlines the most important aspects of the Constitution and explains the reasoning for having one.
- Affirms the people have the absolute authority to establish the Constitution as the supreme law of the land.
- Important because it helps people to better understand the constitution and why we have it.



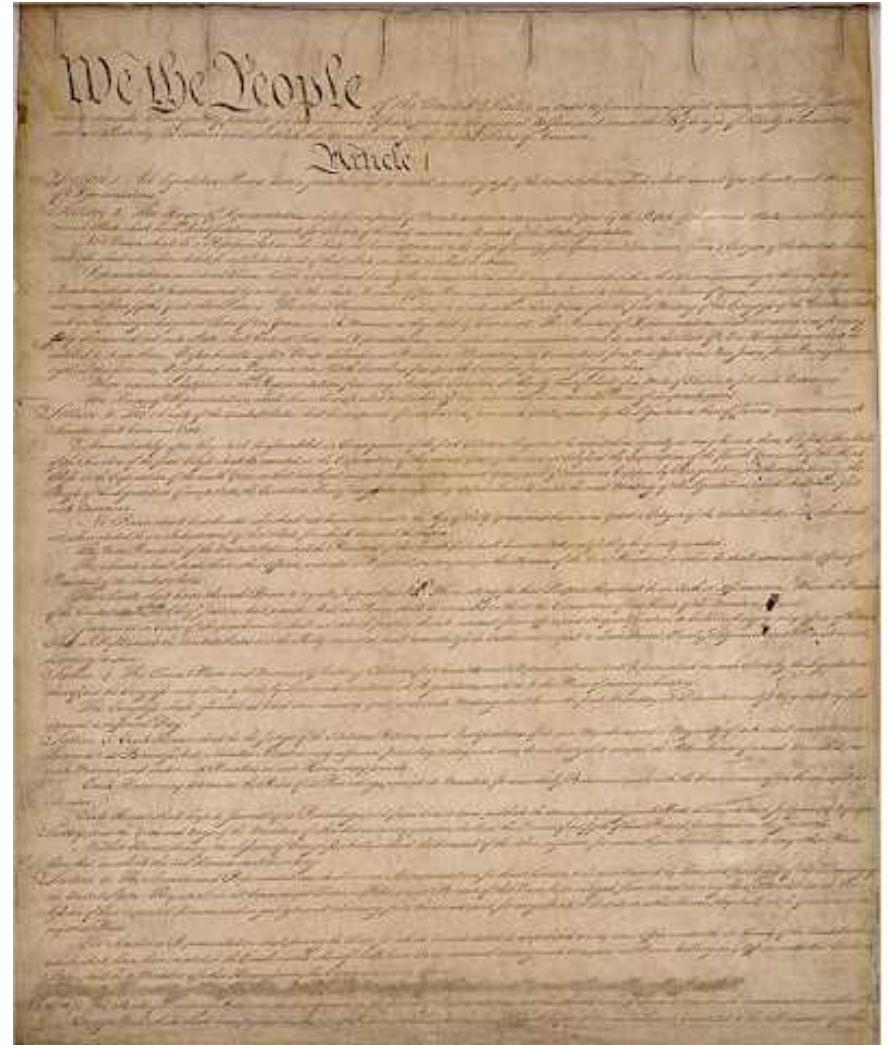
The Constitution

- Explains the philosophies and reasoning behind the U.S. democracy.
- Talks about the different rights and freedoms all citizens must be given.
- Essentially an instruction manual for the U.S. government.
- Important because it's what our entire country is based upon.

American Democracy:

“...government of the people, by the people, for the people.

-President Abraham Lincoln



The Bill of Rights

- One of the greatest documents protecting individual rights.
- Includes the first 10 amendments to the constitution.
 - Basic rights of citizens of the United States.
- Life in the U.S. could be constricted and more federally controlled without one.
- These basic rights are vital for a truly free country.



Constitutional Amendments

1. Freedom of Religion, Speech, The Press, Peaceful Assembly.
2. Right to have a well regulated militia. Right of the people to have and carry weapons.
3. Protects citizens from being forced to take soldiers to feed and board them. Exception during wartime if Congress enacts a law requiring it.
4. Prohibits unreasonable search and seizure of people and their private property. Search warrant required.

Constitutional Amendments

5. Rights of citizens in criminal cases.
 - Grand jury must decide there is enough evidence to bring a person to trial for a serious crime.
 - May not be tried twice for the same offence.
 - May not be forced to testify against oneself.
 - No person deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.
 - Government prevented from taking property without paying the owner at a fair price.

Constitutional Amendments

6. Right to a fair trial.
 - Speedy and public. Heard by an impartial jury.
 - Informed of charges, allowed witnesses, etc.
7. Right to trial by jury in civil cases where disputed amount exceeds \$20.
8. Forbids cruel and unusual punishment. Punishment should fit the crime.
9. First 8 amendments include certain but not all the rights of citizens. The people retain any rights not specifically listed in the Constitution.
10. Asserts that the states or the people retain those powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution.

Constitutional Amendments

27 Total including the Bill of Rights.

11. Right to sue a state.

12. Defines the election of President and Vice President and the fallback system if one should die in office.

13. Abolishes slavery.

14. Specifies the post-Civil War requirements, freed slaves are citizens.

15. Dictates that all races have full rights.

16. Modifies the tax system.

17. Lays out the system for replacement of senators.

18. Bans alcohol.

19. Gives women the right to vote.

20. Patches some basic government functions.

21. Makes the 18th amendment inactive, thereby un-banning alcohol.

22. States that no one can be elected President more than 2 terms.

23. Modifies the Electoral College.

24. No one can be kept from voting because of tax status.

Constitutional Amendments

25. Reinforces the replacement system for the President and Vice President.
26. Moves the voting age to 18.
27. Deals with the payment of Representatives.

List the 6 Functions of Government as noted in the Preamble to the Constitution

1. Form a more perfect Union (States working together).
2. Establish Justice (make and enforce laws).
3. Ensure domestic tranquility (peace in our country).
4. Provide for the common defense (Keep country safe from attack)
5. Promote the general welfare (contribute to and promote happiness)
6. Secure the blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and our Prosperity (make sure we stay free and keep our rights)

How do these function affect your family and local community?

Choose a speech of national historical importance. (Homework)

- Find out about the author and tell about the person who gave the speech.
- Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given.
- Tell how this speech applies to American citizens today.
- Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you and explain why.

Three Branches of Federal Government.

1. The Executive Branch
2. The Legislative Branch
3. The Judicial Branch

The Executive Branch

- Enforces the laws
- Voters elect the President through a system called the Electoral College.
- Courts may declare executive actions to be unconstitutional.
- Congress must approve certain appointments and must pass a bill before the President can sign the bill into law.

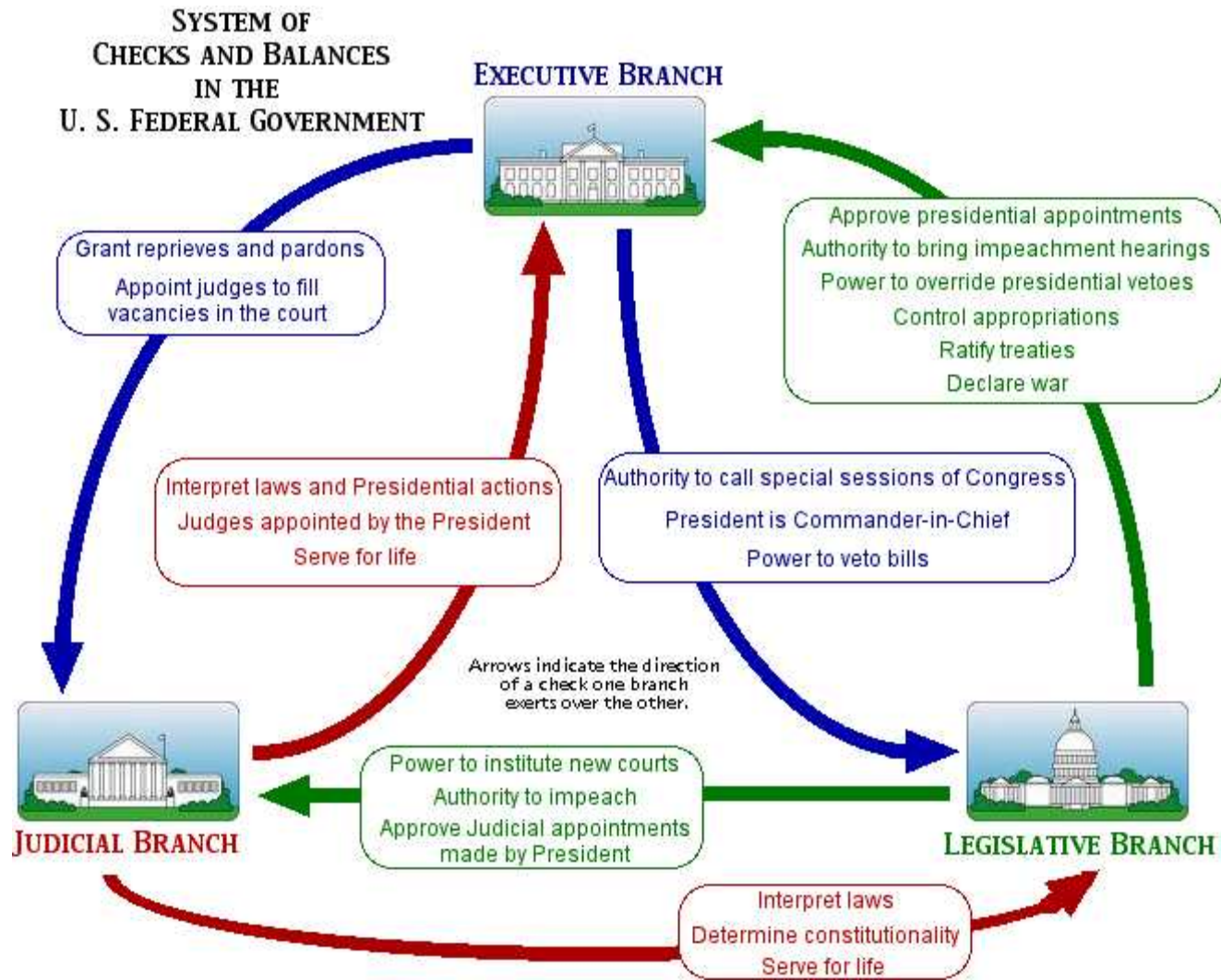
The Legislative Branch

- Makes the laws.
- Voters elect senators in statewide elections and elect members of the House from congressional districts.
- The President can either veto a bill or sign it into law.
- Congress has the power under certain circumstances to override a veto.

The Judicial Branch

- Interprets the laws.
- Citizens are often asked to serve on juries, an important aspect to the judicial branch.
- Many of the cases dealt with in the courts involve individual citizens and their problems or concerns.
- Most federal and state courts in the United States may exercise judicial review, which is the power of deciding the constitutionality of an act of government in any branch.
- The Supreme Court has the final authority to interpret the meaning of the Constitution and determine if the law is being applied correctly and fairly.

Checks and Balances in the Federal Government



Requirement 8 (Homework)

- Name your 2 Senators.
- Name the member of congress from your congressional district.
- Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her.
- Show the letter and any response you receive to your councilor.