

# Unit Two: Structure of Government

Content Area: **Generic Content Area**  
Course(s): **Generic Course**  
Time Period: **8 weeks**  
Length: **Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## **Structure of Government**

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Students will be able to describe the history, structure and function of the American National, State and Local government.

## **Transfer**

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Students will be able to identify the roots of American Democracy and the role of federal, state and local government.

## **Meaning**

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## **Understandings**

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Students will understand that...

Summarize the arguments in the Declaration of Independence.

Identify and explain why the colonists decided to create a constitutional government.

Summarize the debates and compromises of the Constitutional Convention.

Compare the views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Explore and discuss why the states finally decided to ratify the Constitution.

Summarize the major sections of the Constitution.

Explain the three main principles in the Constitution that limit the government's power.

Describe and explain the process of amending the US Constitution.

Summarize the debate in Congress over the Bill of Rights and explain how it became a part of the Constitution.

Summarize and list the rights protected by the Bill of Rights.

Analyze major historical events and important ideas that led to and sustained the constitutional government of the United States including the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Judiciary Act of 1789, the 1st Cabinet under George Washington, and Amendments #1-15.

Describe how a common and shared American civic culture is based on a commitment to central ideas in founding-era documents (ex. Constitution) and in core documents of subsequent periods of US History (ex. Washington's Farewell Address, The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions (1848), The Gettysburg Address, FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech (1941), Kennedy's Inaugural Address (1961), the 17th, 19th, and 24th Amendments, and Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail").

Describe historic and contemporary efforts to reduce discrepancies between the ideals and the reality in American public life, including Amendments #13-15, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, the Abolitionist Movement, the Civil War, and the end of slavery in the US.

Debate current issues and controversies involving the central ideas of the American constitutional system, including representative government (the Electoral College, popular vote), civic virtue (voter turnout), checks and balances, and limits on governmental power.

Identify the members of Congress and the roles and responsibilities of their positions.

Describe the powers of Congress and identify the limits on their power.

List the steps in how a bill becomes a law, including how a bill can be blocked and by whom.

Identify and describe the roles and powers of the American president.

Identify the key executive departments and briefly describe their role in the government.

Explain the role of the civil service system.

Explain how Presidents are able to act on their own power and analyze the costs and benefits of the use of presidential power.

Describe the role of courts in our legal system.

Compare the roles of state and federal courts.

Identify the levels and responsibilities of the federal court system.

Define the role of the Supreme Court.

Describe how the power of the Supreme Court is checked by other branches of government.

Define federalism and analyze the need for balance between national and state governments.

Summarize and describe the structure and powers of the state legislatures.

Describe the powers of the state governors.

Compare the state executive officials and agencies to the President's Cabinet and the executive departments.

Describe the function of the state court system.

Identify and describe the different types of local governments (ex. mayor-council vs. council-manager).

List and describe the services that local governments provide and analyze the ways that these services are funded.

Describe the relationship between local, state, and federal governments.

Evaluate competing ideas about the purpose of national and state governments and how they have evolved (ex. federalism, powers of federal governments and states, interpretations of Article 1, Sections 8-10).

Explain the federal and state legislative process and analyze the influence of lobbying, advocacy groups, the media, and campaign finance on the development of laws and regulations.

Explain how reserved and jointly held powers result in tensions and how those tensions are resolved (ex. Marbury v. Madison (1803), Federalist #78, US v. Nixon (1974), Executive Privilege).

Analyze, through current and historical examples and Supreme Court cases, the scope of governmental power and how the Constitutional distribution of responsibility seeks to prevent the abuse of power.

Apply the concept of rule of law to contemporary issues (ex. impeachment process, Executive Privilege, recess appointments to federal courts, Senate's advice and consent process, and litmus testing).

## **Essential Questions**

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Students will keep considering...

How did American government develop over time?

How was the Constitution created?

Why was it necessary to debate the structure and concretely define various entities of the US government system?

How do state and local governments meet the needs of the people?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

The Declaration of Independence.

Why the colonists decided to create a constitutional government.

The debates and compromises of the Constitutional Convention.

The views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Why the states finally decided to ratify the Constitution.

The major sections of the Constitution.

The three main principles in the Constitution that limit the government's power.

The process of amending the US Constitution.

The debate in Congress over the Bill of Rights and explain how it became a part of the Constitution.

The rights protected by the Bill of Rights.

Major historical events and important ideas that led to and sustained the constitutional government of the United States including the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Judiciary Act of 1789, the 1st Cabinet under George Washington, and Amendments #1-15.

How a common and shared American civic culture is based on a commitment to central ideas in founding-era documents (ex. Constitution) and in core documents of subsequent periods of US History (ex. Washington's Farewell Address, The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions (1848), The Gettysburg Address, FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech (1941), Kennedy's Inaugural Address (1961), the 17th, 19th, and 24th Amendments, and Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail").

Historic and contemporary efforts to reduce discrepancies between the ideals and the reality in American

public life, including Amendments #13-15, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, the Abolitionist Movement, the Civil War, and the end of slavery in the US.

Current issues and controversies involving the central ideas of the American constitutional system, including representative government (the Electoral College, popular vote), civic virtue (voter turnout), checks and balances, and limits on governmental power.

The members of Congress and the roles and responsibilities of their positions.

The powers of Congress and the limits on their power.

The steps in how a bill becomes a law, including how a bill can be blocked and by whom.

The roles and powers of the American president.

The key executive departments and briefly describe their role in the government.

The role of the civil service system.

How Presidents are able to act on their own power and analyze the costs and benefits of the use of presidential power.

The role of courts in our legal system.

The roles of state and federal courts.

The levels and responsibilities of the federal court system.

The role of the Supreme Court.

How the power of the Supreme Court is checked by other branches of government.

Federalism and analyze the need for balance between national and state governments.

The structure and powers of the state legislatures.

The powers of the state governors.

The state executive officials and agencies to the President's Cabinet and the executive departments.

The function of the state court system.

The different types of local governments (ex. mayor-council vs. council-manager).

The services that local governments provide and analyze the ways that these services are funded.

The relationship between local, state, and federal governments.

The competing ideas about the purpose of national and state governments and how they have evolved (ex. federalism, powers of federal governments and states, interpretations of Article 1, Sections 8-10).

The federal and state legislative process and analyze the influence of lobbying, advocacy groups, the media, and campaign finance on the development of laws and regulations.

How reserved and jointly held powers result in tensions and how those tensions are resolved (ex. Marbury v.

Madison (1803), Federalist #78, US v. Nixon (1974), Executive Privilege).

The scope of governmental power and how the Constitutional distribution of responsibility seeks to prevent the abuse of power.

The concept of rule of law to contemporary issues (ex. impeachment process, Executive Privilege, recess appointments to federal courts, Senate's advice and consent process, and litmus testing).

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will develop the following skills:

Summarize the arguments in the Declaration of Independence.

Identify and explain why the colonists decided to create a constitutional government.

Summarize the debates and compromises of the Constitutional Convention.

Compare the views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Explore and discuss why the states finally decided to ratify the Constitution.

Summarize the major sections of the Constitution.

Explain the three main principles in the Constitution that limit the government's power.

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Describe how a common and shared American civic culture is based on a commitment to central ideas in founding-era documents (ex. Constitution) and in core documents of subsequent periods of US History (ex. Washington's Farewell Address, The Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions (1848), The Gettysburg Address, FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech (1941), Kennedy's Inaugural Address (1961), the 17th, 19th, and 24th Amendments, and Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail").

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American public life, including Amendments #13-15, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, the Abolitionist Movement, the Civil War, and the end of slavery in the US.

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Identify the key executive departments and briefly describe their role in the government.

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Describe the role of courts in our legal system.

Compare the roles of state and federal courts.

Identify the levels and responsibilities of the federal court system.

Define the role of the Supreme Court.

Describe how the power of the Supreme Court is checked by other branches of government.

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Describe the powers of the state governors.

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Describe the function of the state court system.

Identify and describe the different types of local governments (ex. mayor-council vs. council-manager).

List and describe the services that local governments provide and analyze the ways that these services are funded.

Describe the relationship between local, state, and federal governments.

Evaluate competing ideas about the purpose of national and state governments and how they have evolved (ex. federalism, powers of federal governments and states, interpretations of Article 1, Sections 8-10).

Explain the federal and state legislative process and analyze the influence of lobbying, advocacy groups, the media, and campaign finance on the development of laws and regulations.

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## **Academic Vocabulary**

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Legislature

Charter

natural rights

separation of powers

ratification

republic

Great Compromise

3/5 Compromise

Federalists

Amendments

Concurrent Powers

Reserved Powers

Checks and Balances

Bill of Rights

eminent domain

due process of law

freedom of speech

suffrage



segregation

bill

bill of attainder

filibuster

cloture

domestic policy

cabinet

treaties

precedent

courts of appeals

judicial review

public policy

income tax

referendum

item veto

Missouri Plan

municipality

zoning

home rule

## **Target 2**

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Determine the impact of the Declaration of Independence on the Founding Fathers and the principles used to found the nation.

- Determine the impact of the Declaration of Independence on the Founding Fathers and the principles used to found the nation.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a

Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.

SOC.6.1.12.A.4.b

Analyze how ideas found in key documents (i.e., the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address) contributed to demanding equality for all.

### Target 3

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Summarize the organization and the structure of government outlined in the Constitution.

- Summarize the organization and the structure of government outlined in the Constitution.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a

Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b

Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.

SOC.6.1.12.A.14.b

Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies.

SOC.6.1.12.CS2

Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.

### Target 1

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Summarize the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

- Summarize the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

SOC.6.1.12.CS2

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### Learning Goal 3

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Assess the role state and local governments in meeting the needs of the people.

- Assess the role state and local governments in meeting the needs of the people.

MA.S-ID.A	Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable
MA.S-ID.B	Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables
LA.WHST.9-10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic and convey a style appropriate to the discipline and context as well as to the expertise of likely readers.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b	Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.f	Compare and contrast the successes and failures of political (i.e., the 1844 State Constitution) and social (i.e., abolition, women's rights, and temperance) reform movements in New Jersey and the nation during the Antebellum period.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.g	Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interest-group politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.
SOC.6.1.12.A.13.a	Analyze the effectiveness of the New Jersey Constitution of 1947, New Jersey Supreme Court decisions (i.e., Hedgepeth and Williams v. Trenton Board of Education), and New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination (i.e., P.L. 1945, c.169) in eliminating segregation and discrimination.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.b	Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies.
SOC.6.1.12.B.2.a	Analyze how the United States has attempted to account for regional differences while also striving to create an American identity.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b	Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.
SOC.6.1.12.D.3.c	Assess how states' rights (i.e., Nullification) and sectional interests influenced party politics and shaped national policies (i.e., the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850).
SOC.6.1.12.D.4.e	Analyze the impact of the Civil War and the 14th Amendment on the development of the country and on the relationship between the national and state governments.
SOC.6.1.12.CS1	Colonization and Settlement: North American Colonial societies adapted European governmental, economic, and cultural institutions and ideologies to meet their needs in the New World.
SOC.6.1.12.CS2	Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.
SOC.6.2.12.A.3.a	Explain how and why various ideals (e.g., liberty, popular sovereignty, natural rights, democracy, nationalism) became driving forces for reforms and revolutions, their influence on Latin American independence movements, and evaluate their impact on government, society, and economic opportunities.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.1	Gathering and evaluating knowledge and information from a variety of sources, including global perspectives, fosters creativity and innovative thinking.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.1	The ability to recognize a problem and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to solve the problem is a lifelong skill that develops over time.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.A.1	Apply critical thinking and problem-solving strategies during structured learning experiences.

## Target 1

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Describe the key parts of federalism and the political structure of the state.

- Describe the key parts of federalism and the political structure of the state.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b	Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.f	Compare and contrast the successes and failures of political (i.e., the 1844 State Constitution) and social (i.e., abolition, women's rights, and temperance) reform movements in New Jersey and the nation during the Antebellum period.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.g	Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interest-group politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.
SOC.6.1.12.A.6.c	Relate the creation of African American advocacy organizations (i.e., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) to United States Supreme Court decisions (i.e., Plessy v. Ferguson) and state and local governmental policies.
SOC.6.1.12.B.2.a	Analyze how the United States has attempted to account for regional differences while also striving to create an American identity.
SOC.6.1.12.C.2.a	Assess the effectiveness of the new state and national governments attempts to respond to economic challenges including domestic (e.g., inflation, debt) and foreign trade policy issues.
SOC.6.1.12.D.3.c	Assess how states' rights (i.e., Nullification) and sectional interests influenced party politics and shaped national policies (i.e., the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850).

## Target 2

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Identify different types of local government to assess their responses to the needs of local communities.

- Identify different types of local government to assess their responses to the needs of local communities.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b	Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.f	Compare and contrast the successes and failures of political (i.e., the 1844 State Constitution) and social (i.e., abolition, women's rights, and temperance) reform movements in New Jersey and the nation during the Antebellum period.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.g	Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interest-group politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.
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## **Summative Assessment**

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All assessments are differentiated and aligned to the social studies standards and curriculum. Alternate assessments may include, but not be limited to problem based learning, projects, common assessments, and other activities. Common summative assessments will be devised by core content teachers and must include benchmark assessments.

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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WORK.9-12.9.1.12.1	The ability to recognize a problem and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to solve the problem is a lifelong skill that develops over time.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.1	Gathering and evaluating knowledge and information from a variety of sources, including global perspectives, fosters creativity and innovative thinking.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.1	Collaboration and teamwork enable individuals or groups to achieve common goals with greater efficiency.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.A.1	Apply critical thinking and problem-solving strategies during structured learning experiences.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.B.1	Present resources and data in a format that effectively communicates the meaning of the data and its implications for solving problems, using multiple perspectives.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.C.1	Enlist input from experts in the field, community members, and other stakeholders to design a service-learning activity that addresses a local, national, or worldwide need.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.C.2	Analyze the common traits of effective state, national, or international leaders.

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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Teacher Observation

Cooperative Learning groups

Learning Stations

Do Now

Exit Strategies

Student Self Assessment

Journals

All Write Activities

Student Polling

Quizzes (Written and Oral)

## **Accommodations/Modifications**

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Differentiation:

IEP modifications and 504 accommodations

Enrichment:

College Prep A/B

Honors

AP Level Courses

## **Unit Resources**

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May include, but not be limited to:

Civics: Government and Economics in Action Textbook

Online websites and resources

DVD's

Social Studies Databases

Student Response Systems

Projector/Speaker Systems

Primary Source Documents

Document Cameras

Online Portfolios

Teacher Resource Kit

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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