



Citizenship in the Nation

Troop 344 and 9344

Pemberville, OH

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Requirements



1. What is the Constitution of the United States? What does the Constitution do? What principles does it reflect? Why is it important to have a Constitution?
2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. How do these purposes affect your family and community?
3. List the three branches of the United States government. Explain:
 - a. The function of each branch of government
 - b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches
 - c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others
 - d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Requirements



4. Discuss the importance of:
 - a. Declaration of Independence
 - b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment
 - c. The traditional United States motto "E Pluribus Unum".
5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Requirements



6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

Explain:

- a. Who the author was
- b. What the historical context was
- c. What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
- d. What the author said
- e. Why the speech is important to the nation's history.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Requirements



7. Do TWO of the following:

- a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
- b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.



Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Requirements



8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you might receive, to your counselor.

Requirement 1



What is the Constitution of the United States? What does the Constitution do? What principles does it reflect? Why is it important to have a Constitution?



Requirement 4



Discuss the importance of:

- a. Declaration of Independence
- b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment
- c. The traditional United States motto "E Pluribus Unum".



U.S. Constitution



We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, to insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Persons, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such Enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York seven, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland one, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

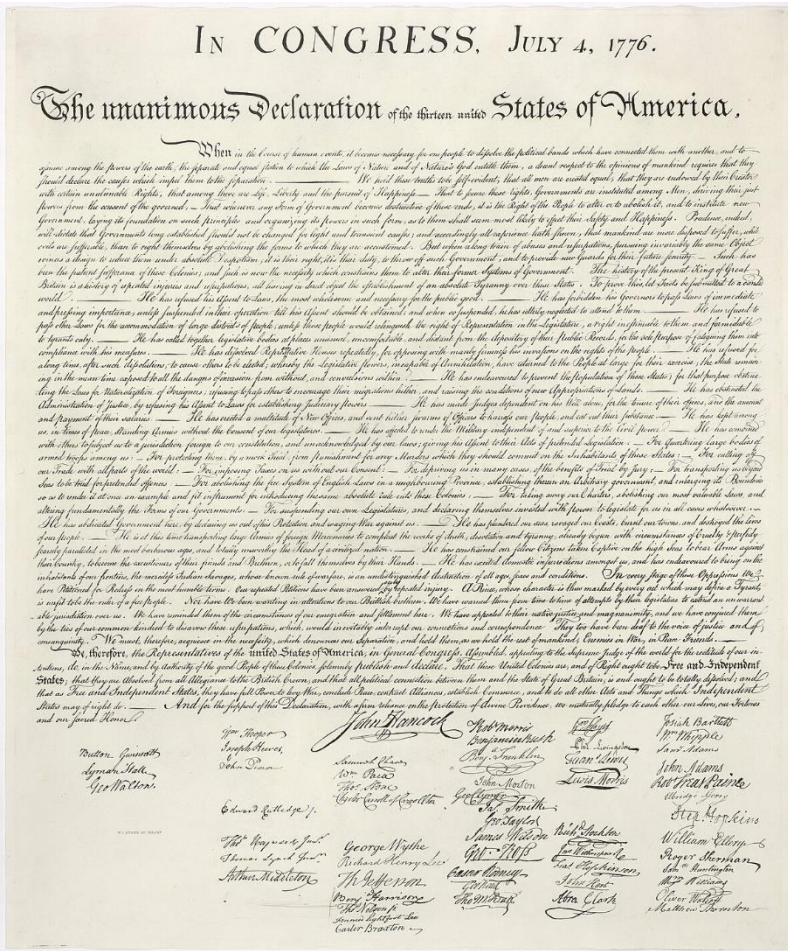
Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Clases. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Course of the Session of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill the Vacancies.

Schoolhouse Rock: No More Kings



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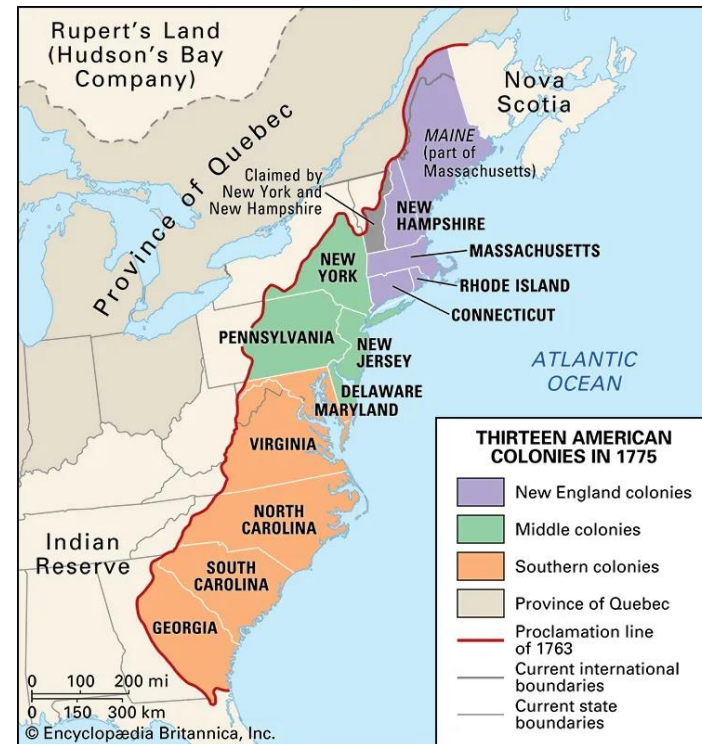
Declaration of Independence



Pronouncement adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776

Declaration of Independence

- Enacted during the American Revolution
- Declaration to Great Britain of statehood and independence
 - Thirteen independent sovereign states
 - No longer under British rule
 - Collective first step in forming the United States of America



"E Pluribus Unum"

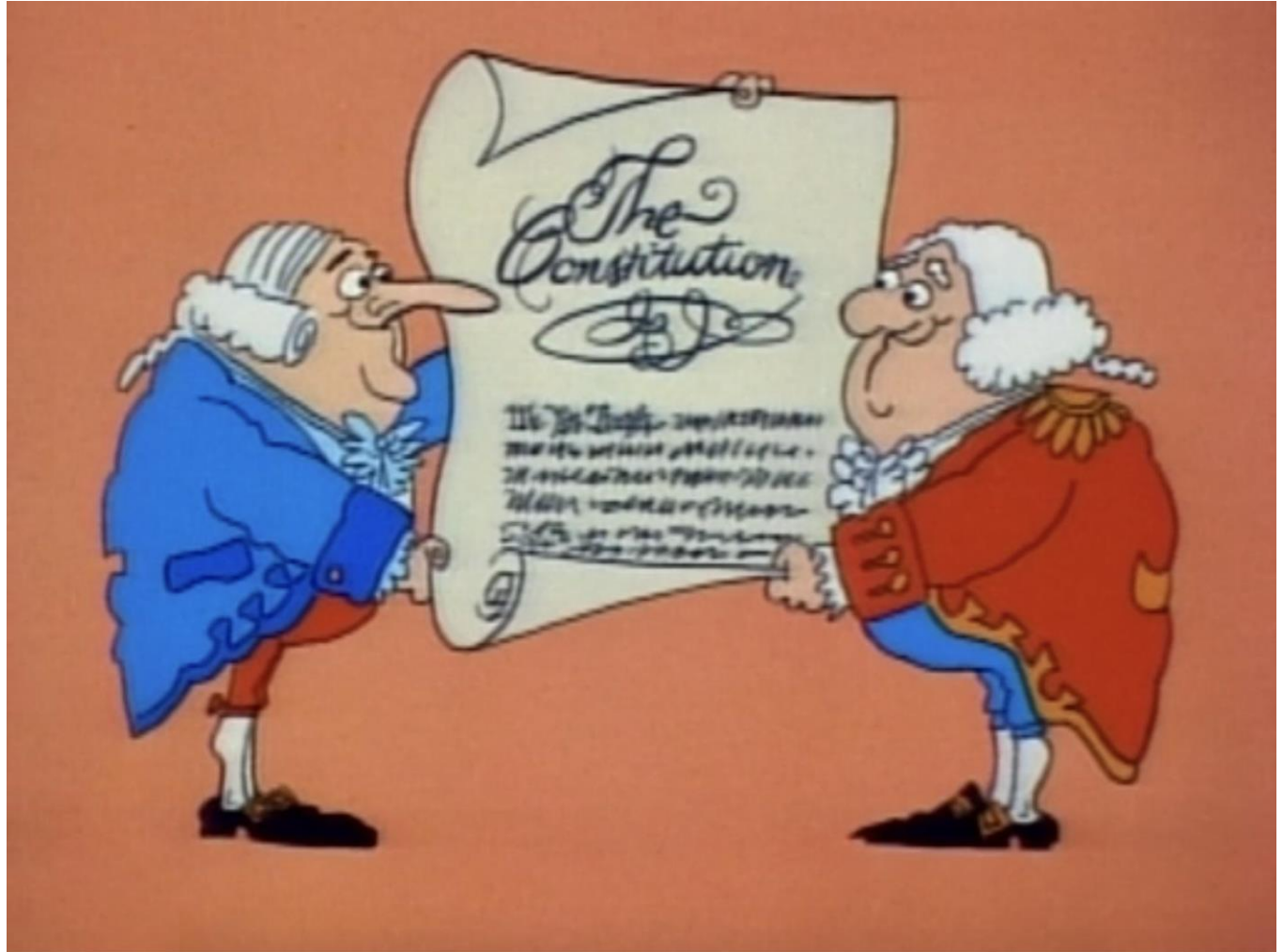
"Out of many, one"



"E Pluribus Unum" - 13-letter motto of the U.S.
Out of the union of the original Thirteen Colonies
emerged a new single nation



Schoolhouse Rock: The Constitution



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Preamble to the Constitution



We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Preamble to the Constitution

- Brief introductory statement of the Constitution's
 - Fundamental purposes
 - Guiding principles
- Courts have referred to it as evidence of the Founding Fathers' intentions regarding the Constitution's meaning and what they hoped the Constitution would achieve



The U.S. Constitution



Created	September 17, 1787
Presented	September 28, 1787
Ratified	June 21, 1788
Date effective	March 4, 1789

Supreme Law of the United States of America

The U.S. Constitution

Preamble to the Constitution

- [The Preamble](#)

Articles of the Constitution

- [Article I](#) Legislative Branch
- [Article II](#) Executive Branch
- [Article III](#) Judicial Branch
- [Article IV](#) Relationships Between the States
- [Article V](#) Amending the Constitution
- [Article VI](#) Prior Debts, National Supremacy, and Oaths of Office
- [Article VII](#) Ratification



The U.S. Constitution

[Article I](#), [Article II](#), [Article III](#)

- First three articles embody the doctrine of the separation of powers
- Federal government is divided into three branches
 - The legislative, consisting of the bicameral Congress
 - The executive, consisting of the president and subordinate officers
 - The judicial, consisting of the Supreme Court and other federal courts



The U.S. Constitution

[Article IV](#)

- Relationships Between the States

[Article V](#)

- Amending the Constitution

[Article VI](#)

- Prior Debts, National Supremacy, and Oaths of Office

[Article VII](#)

- Establishes procedure subsequently used by the 13 States to ratify



Bill of Rights



Created

September 25, 1789

Ratified

December 15, 1791

Update to the Constitution.

Limitation of Federal power over citizens.

Bill of Rights

- First 10 Amendments added to the Constitution.
 - Specific guarantees of personal freedoms and rights.
 - Clear limitations on the government's power in judicial proceedings.
 - Powers not specifically granted to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states or the people.



Bill of Rights

- [First Amendment](#) Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition
- [Second Amendment](#) Bearing and Keeping Arms
- [Third Amendment](#) Quartering Soldiers
- [Fourth Amendment](#) Search and Seizure
- [Fifth Amendment](#) Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self Incrimination, Due Process
- [Sixth Amendment](#) Rights of Those Charged in Criminal Prosecutions
- [Seventh Amendment](#) Civil Trial Rights
- [Eighth Amendment](#) Excessive Bail and Fines, and Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- [Ninth Amendment](#) Unenumerated Rights
- [Tenth Amendment](#) Rights Reserved to the States and to the People

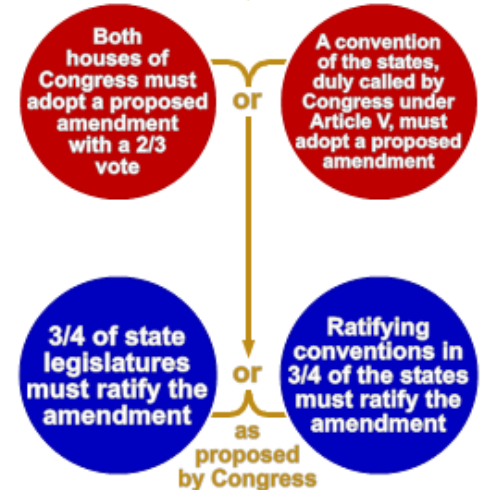


The U.S. Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution

- Includes the Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments)
- Total of 27 amendments

AMENDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION




The ratifying convention option has been used only once, for the Twenty-first Amendment.


On all but two occasions since 1917, Congress has limited the length of time the states have to ratify an amendment. An amendment must be ratified by the requisite number of states within the stated period in order to become operative.

33 constitutional amendments have been adopted by both houses of Congress and sent to the states for ratification since 1789. Of those, only 27 have been ratified by the requisite number of states and became valid as part of the United States Constitution.

Amendments to the Constitution

- 
- [First Amendment](#) Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition
 - [Second Amendment](#) Bearing and Keeping Arms
 - [Third Amendment](#) Quartering Soldiers
 - [Fourth Amendment](#) Search and Seizure
 - [Fifth Amendment](#) Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self Incrimination, Due Process, Takings
 - [Sixth Amendment](#) Rights of Those Charged in Criminal Prosecutions
 - [Seventh Amendment](#) Civil Trial Rights
 - [Eighth Amendment](#) Excessive Bail and Fines, and Cruel and Unusual Punishment
 - [Ninth Amendment](#) Unenumerated Rights
 - [Tenth Amendment](#) Rights Reserved to the States and to the People
 - [Eleventh Amendment](#) Suits Against States
 - [Twelfth Amendment](#) Election of President
 - [Thirteenth Amendment](#) Abolition of Slavery

Amendments to the Constitution

- 
- [Fourteenth Amendment](#) Citizenship, Equal Protection, and Other Post-Civil War Provisions
 - [Fifteenth Amendment](#) Right of Citizens to Vote
 - [Sixteenth Amendment](#) Income Tax
 - [Seventeenth Amendment](#) Popular Election of Senators
 - [Eighteenth Amendment](#) Prohibition of Liquor
 - [Nineteenth Amendment](#) Women's Suffrage Rights
 - [Twentieth Amendment](#) Presidential Term and Succession
 - [Twenty-First Amendment](#) Repeal of Prohibition
 - [Twenty-Second Amendment](#) Presidential Term Limits
 - [Twenty-Third Amendment](#) Presidential Electors for District of Columbia
 - [Twenty-Fourth Amendment](#) Abolition of the Poll Taxes
 - [Twenty-Fifth Amendment](#) Presidential Vacancy and Disability
 - [Twenty-Sixth Amendment](#) Reduction of Voting Age
 - [Twenty-Seventh Amendment](#) Congressional Compensation

Amendment XIV

- Why the 14th Amendment is one of history's most important and radical ideas.



For video click on image

Amendment XIV

Section 1.

- All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.



Amendment XIV

Section 2.

- Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.



Amendment XIV

Section 3.

- No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.



Amendment XIV

Section 4.

- The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.



Amendment XIV

Section 5.

- The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.



Amendment XIV

Number of important concepts, most famously Section 1.

- **State Action** - State cannot make or enforce any law that abridges the privileges or immunities of any citizen.
- **Privileges and Immunities** – Protection of interstate travel.
- **Citizenship** – US & state citizenship to all born in the United States.
- **Due Process** – State must respect all legal rights that are owed to a person.
- **Equal Protection** - Individuals in similar situations treated equally by the law.



Amendment XIV

Other important concepts:

- **Section Two** - Apportionment of representatives to Congress. Penalizes states that denied voting to males 21 and older (other for than crime).
- **Section Three** - Participates in "insurrection or rebellion" against the United States shall not hold federal office.
- **Section Four** - Repudiation of debts accrued by the Confederacy and federal debt for services against insurrection are sacrosanct.
- **Section Five** - Expressly authorizes Congress to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment "by appropriate legislation."



Requirement 1 Review

- What is the Constitution of the United States?
- What does the Constitution do?
- What principles does it reflect?
- Why is it important to have a Constitution?



Requirement 2



List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. How do these purposes affect your family and community?



Government

- Six Functions of Government
 - Preamble to the Constitution



We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Government

Six Functions of Government:

1. Form a more perfect union.
2. Establish justice.
3. Insure domestic tranquility.
4. Provide for the common defense.
5. Promote the general welfare.
6. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.



Requirement 3

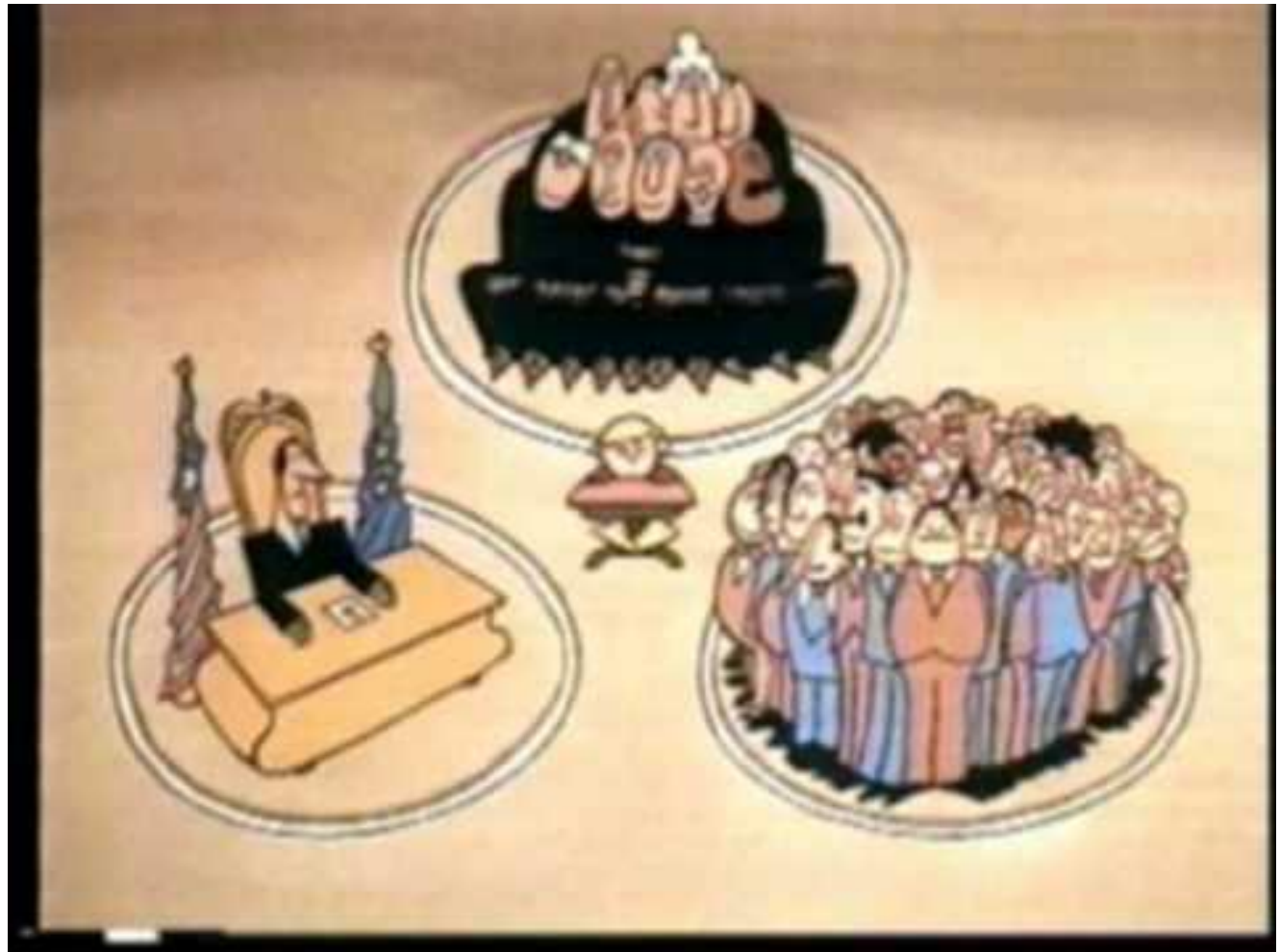


List the three branches of the United States government. Explain:

- a. The function of each branch of government
- b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches
- c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others
- d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.



Schoolhouse Rock: Three Branches of Government



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Three Branches of Government

Legislative Branch

- The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress
- Among other powers, the legislative branch:
 - Makes all laws.
 - Declares war.
 - Regulates interstate and foreign commerce.
 - Controls taxing and spending policies.



Three Branches of Government

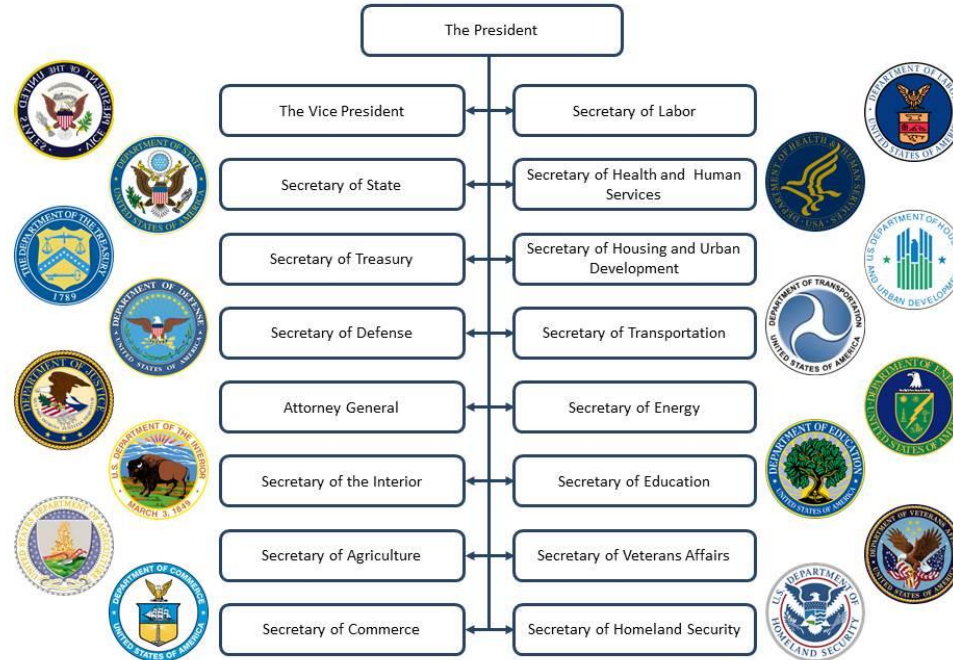
Legislative Branch

- The House of Representatives
 - Based on population
- The Senate
 - Two per State



Three Branches of Government

Executive Branch



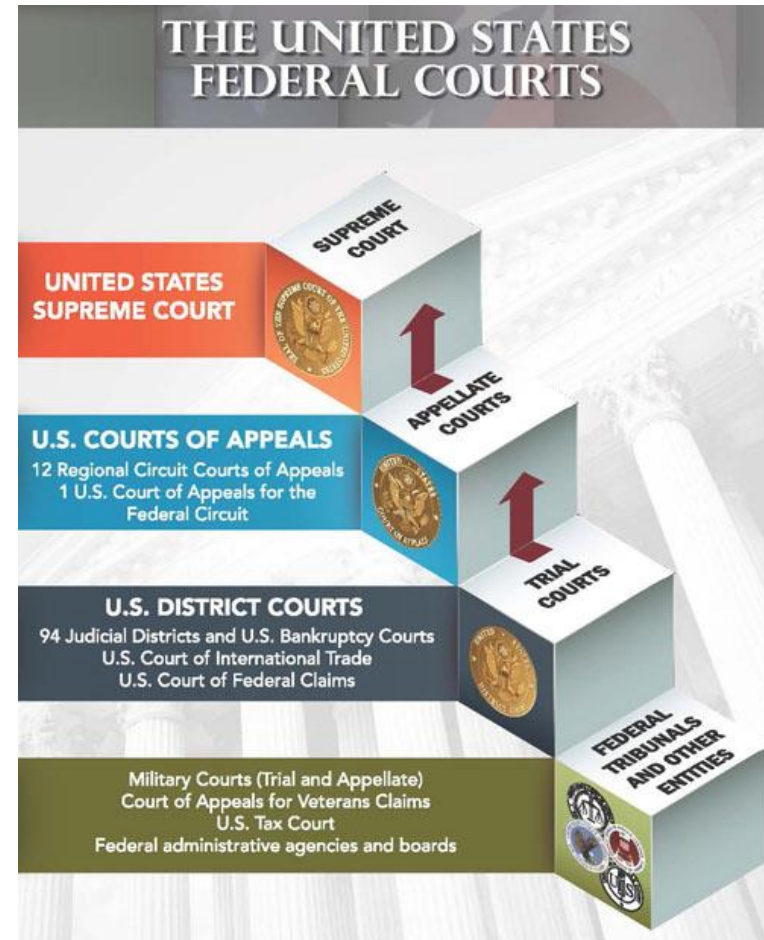
Executive Branch

- The executive branch consists of the President, his or her advisors and various departments and agencies
- This branch is responsible for enforcing the laws of the land.

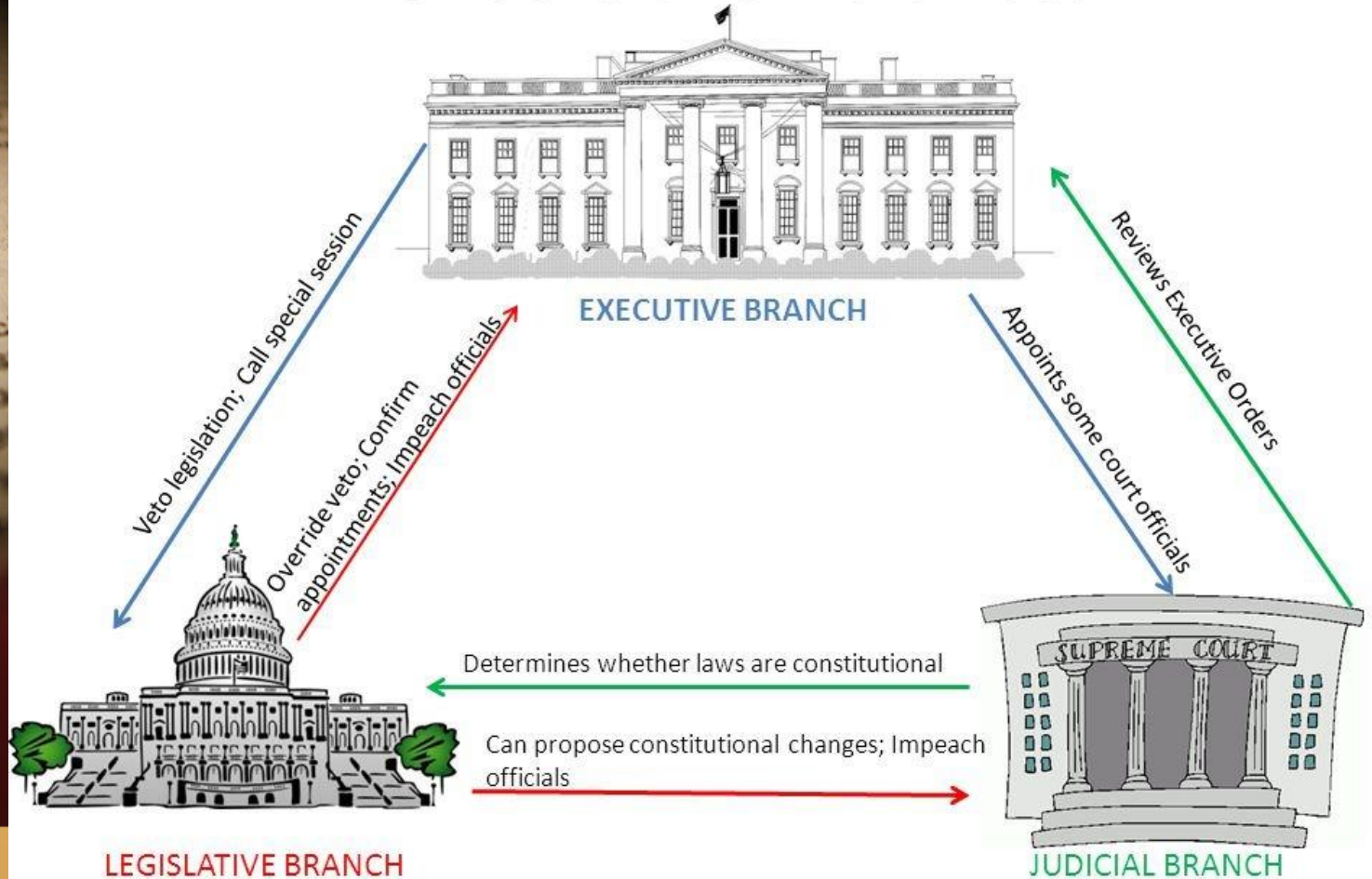
Three Branches of Government

Judicial Branch

- According to the Constitution, "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish."



U.S. Government Checks and Balances



Requirement 5



Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.



Current National Events

National Evening News

- [ABC World News](#)



- [CBS Evening News](#)



- [NBC Nightly News](#)



Requirement 6



With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

Explain:

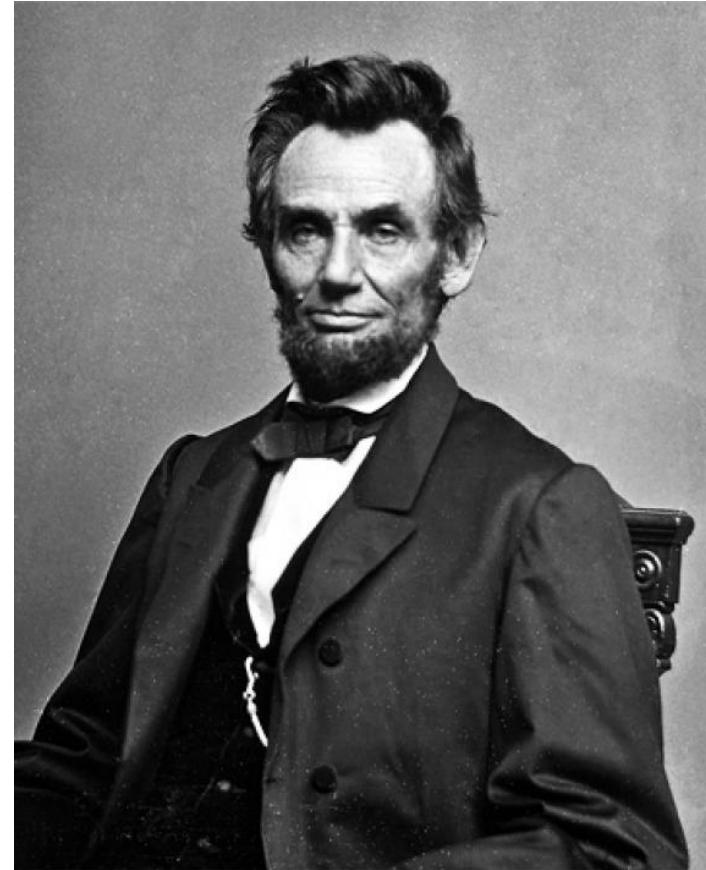
- Who the author was
- What the historical context was
- What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
- What the author said
- Why the speech is important to the nation's history.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.



Gettysburg Address

- President Lincoln:
 - American lawyer and statesman.
 - 16th president of the United States.
 - Led the nation through the American Civil War.
 - Succeeded in:
 - Preserving the Union.
 - Abolishing slavery.
 - Bolstering the federal government.
 - Modernizing the U.S. economy.



Gettysburg Address

- President Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863
- 4.5 months following
Battle of Gettysburg

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

DELIVERED
BY
ABRAHAM
LINCOLN
NOV. 19 1863



AT THE
DEDICATION
SERVICES
ON THE
BATTLE FIELD

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. ★★
Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. ★★ We are met on a great battle-field of that war. ★ We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. ★★ It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. ★★ But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. ★ The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. ★★ It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; ★ that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Gettysburg Address

- President Lincoln described the US as a nation "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,"
- Honored the sacrifices of those who died at Gettysburg in defense of those principles:
 - *"that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"*



Important Historical Speeches

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in which he calls for an end to segregation and racial discrimination.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt's speech one day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, asking Congress to declare war on Japan.
- Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech that challenged Communist leaders to end the Cold War and foster peace between West and East Germany.
- [List of Famous American Speeches.](#)



Requirement 7



Do TWO of the following:

- a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
- b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.



National Historical Landmark

- [National Historical Landmarks by State](#)



- [National Register of Historical Places](#)



State or U.S. Capitol



Ohio Capitol Building

U.S. Capitol Building



Federal Facility

- [Federal Offices Serving Ohio](#)



- [Federal Buildings in Ohio](#)



National Monument

- [List of National Monuments in the U.S.](#)



Requirement 8



Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you might receive, to your counselor.



U.S. Senators

- Each state in the United States elects two senators.
 - [List of U.S. Senators](#)
- This allows for equal representation regardless of the State's size or population.
- Senators serve six-year terms with staggered elections.



Ohio Senators



[Sharrod Brown](#)



[J.D. Vance](#)

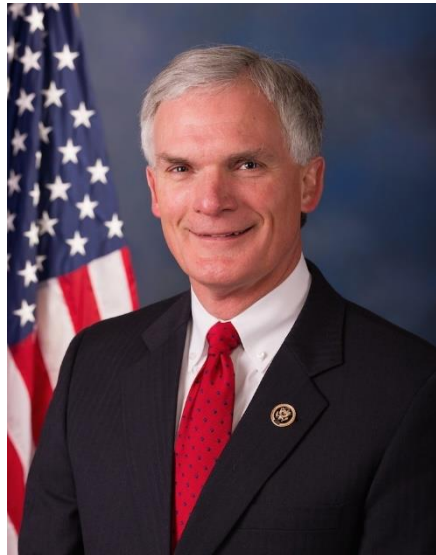
U.S. Representatives

- The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts ([see map](#))
- Each district has a population of about 710,000 individuals.
- Each district elects a representative (congressmen/congresswomen) to the House of Representatives for a two-year term.
- Americans in the United States' six territories are represented in the House of Representatives by an additional six non-voting delegates.



Representatives for Ohio

- 5th District
(includes Wood County)
- 4th District
(includes Sandusky County)



Robert Latta



Jim Jordan

Contact a Senator or Representative

- Senators
 - www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm
- Representatives
 - www.house.gov/representatives



Writing an Effective Letter

- Address the official using his or her correct title.
 - U.S. Senator:
 - The address: The Honorable John Smith,
 - The greeting: Dear Senator Smith,
 - Member of the House of Representatives:
 - The address: The Honorable Mary Doe,
 - The greeting: Dear Ms. Doe,



Writing an Effective Letter

- Identify yourself and your reasons for writing the letter.
- Refer to a specific bill by number or name, if applicable.
- Explain briefly, rationally and politely why are you concerned about the issue?
- Send your letter before the bill is brought to the floor or while your representative can still do something about your concern.
- Request a response and include your return address.



Final Thoughts

- Our Nation was built and shaped by those in it.
- You impact the success or failure of your Nation.
- Participate.
- Be a good Citizen.



Final Thoughts

- Merit Badge Requirement Checklist
 - Show completion of work (turn in complete worksheet)
 - Req 1 – Constitution
 - Req 2 – Preamble to the Constitution
 - Req 3 – 3 Branches of Government
 - Req 4 – Important Documents
 - Req 5 – National News
 - Req 6 – Important Speech
 - Req 7 – Field Trip
 - Req 8 – Contact an Elected Official

