

Principles of Government

Junior Class: American Government and Civics

Chapter 1, pp.2-25

Principles of Government

- In an email to greenej@wiggins50.k12.co.us, take three minutes to answer the following questions:
 - “Is government absolutely necessary? Why or why not?”
 - “What are the functions and duties of a government?”
 - “What are rights and responsibilities of the citizens?”

Principles of Government

- Government and the State (pp. 4-11).
- Forms of Government (pp. 12-19).
- Basic Concepts of Democracy (pp. 20-24).

Concepts to Understand

- What is a “Government”?
- What is a “State”?
- What is a “Country”?
- What is a “Nation”?

What is Government?

- Please read p. 4-5.
- Who can make a working definition of the word “Government”?

What is a “State”?

- Volunteer to read the graphic on the top of page 6.
 - Population.
 - Territory.
 - Sovereignty.
 - Government.
 - Recognition.
- Is Colorado a “State”?
- Is the USA a “State”?
- Is ISIS/ISIL/IS a “State”?

What is a “Country”?

- Page 6 considers the term “country” to refer to a geographic description of a particular place, region, or area of land.
- Is Colorado a “Country”?
- Is the USA a “Country”?
- Is ISIS/ISIL/IS considered a “Country”?

What is a “Nation”?

- *Noun*: a large aggregate of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory.
 - Is Colorado a “Nation”?
 - Is the USA a “Nation”? (Think adjective “American”).
 - Is ISIS/ISIL/IS a “Nation”?
 - Is Al Qaeda a “Nation”?
 - Is Raider Nation really a “Nation”?

Origins of the State.

- See graphic on p.8.
 - Force Theory: Can you give me an example, either ancient, historic or modern?
 - Evolution Theory: Can you give me an example, either ancient, historic or modern?
 - Divine Right Theory: Can you give me an example, either ancient, historic or modern?
 - Social Contract Theory: Can you give me an example, either ancient, historic or modern?

What theories are being discussed?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtYU87QNjPw>

What theories are being discussed?

- What theory did King Arthur discuss?
- What theory did the “repressed citizen” discuss?

The Purpose of Government.

- Pages 9-11.
- How does the purpose of the United States government relate to our definition of “Government”?
- How does the purpose to the United States government relate to the theories of the origins of state?

Forms of Government

- How to classify governments.
 - Who can participate in decision making?
 - How are governmental powers distributed?
 - Who makes the ultimate decisions?
- Democracy:
 - Direct Democracy
 - Indirect Democracy or “Republic”.
- Dictatorships:
 - Absolute Rule by an individual or small but powerful party or regime.

Federalism vs. Separation of Powers (pp. 15-17).

- Federalism is the Federal, State, Local government thing.
- Separation of Powers is the three branches of government thing.

Assignment this week.

- Read Chapter 1: Short Assessment on 8/24/2017.
- 5-Paragraph Essay. Due 8/24/2017.
- Answer the Questions:
 - “Is government necessary?”
 - “What are the functions of government?”
 - “How does the government of the United States fulfill these functions?”