

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope this learning packet finds you and your family healthy and safely tucked in at home. I miss you and am sorry that our year together ended this way. You are living through a once in a century experience (hopefully) and it will pass. My grandmother frequently told us stories about life in Philadelphia during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1917 and some day you will be telling stories about this as well. Attached you find activities to review and cover the Civics and Economics SOL's. But you are experiencing important concepts of Civics and Economics right now. This is an excellent time for families to discuss, debate and investigate civic responsibilities, personal freedoms and the role of our government. Family dinners would be a great time to relax together and share ideas. I do not want any of you to watch too much news, but I recommend maybe a half hour of national news at 6:30 and then some discussion. Depending on the topics of the day this is a short list of suggested questions or topics related to our SOL content and current issues.

Why should we restrict our freedom to assemble on a beach or at a party?	CE.3 and 4
What is the CDC? What branch of government is it a part of?	CE.6
What is the difference between what the President does and what Congress does?	CE.6
Who is making decisions and issuing "stay at home" orders" on the state level?	CE.7
Why are some states responding differently than others?	CE.7
Why doesn't the federal government tell all the states what to do?	CE.7
Who is making decisions on the local level?	CE.9
Who is enforcing the rules and regulations on the local level?	CE.8
Who makes decisions about our schools?	CE.8
How are government officials keeping you and your family informed?	CE.5
What role is the media playing during this pandemic?	CE.5
How are political parties responding differently to this crisis?	CE.5
What is happening to plans for a presidential election in November?	CE.5
What is the government doing about our economy?	CE.12
How is the Eastern Shore being economically impacted by this pandemic?	CE.11
What do you think the government could or should have done differently? Why?	CE.1
Should the government have stricter consequences for citizens who do not follow social distancing guidelines? Why or why not?	CE.1

If you have a question to debate with your classmates I will have a platform in Google Classroom in which we can do this, as long as we can be respectful of different viewpoints. I will also establish office hours Monday through Thursday from 10 to 12 in which I will respond via e-mail to any questions or problems you may have with the following packet. I am limited to a short window of time to assemble and copy this packet at school so I apologize now for any copying errors.



## Directions for Seven Week Civics and Economics Packet

Week 1	CE.2, 3-4, 6	Review of SOL's taught
Week 2	CE. 7 and 8	State and Local Government
Week 3	CE. 10	Judicial Branch
Week 4	CE.5 and 9	Political Process
Weeks 5 - 6	CE. 11 and 12	Economic Principles - Lots of vocabulary to learn
Week 7	CE.13 and 14	Role of U.S. Government in Economy and Career Opportunities

Each new unit begins with a letter to parents with suggested topics of discussion. Of course, the activities are not appropriate for our current world as we know it. The SOL content to learn for each unit will be on the following page. Each week's work is comprised of interactive notes, questions and a review page. Obviously, we will not be interacting, but we have completed enough of these together for you to know how to do it on your own. Parents are now establishing expectations for learning however, I do strongly suggest that students practice their writing and communication skills by answering questions in complete sentences.

If you have access to the internet this material will be in Google Classroom as well. You may also challenge your skills and knowledge by using the on-line textbook and the links in Google Classroom. The relevant textbook chapters in LearnSmart will be assigned each week. Parents, this is an outstanding reading development tool as well as content instruction.

If you learn the content in this packet, I have no doubt that you would have passed the Civics SOL test. Most of you will have a government course again in high school and this will help you keep up with your other classmates that finished this course. Besides those reasons, this will help you to better understand how our country is responding to the Corona Virus Pandemic. Take care of yourselves, and your family. I'll be talking to you on the internet.

Missing you,  
Ms. C. Rich



Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Students,

I miss you young people! I hope you're staying healthy and happy during these challenging times! Your history teachers have put together a packet to help keep you sharp on your historic and civic knowledge! Read on to find out more...

Students are to complete the following packet over the next seven weeks. The packet, a schedule and the directions are included- As students' work Mr. Jonczak will provide bonus articles and videos on google classroom simply as extra enrichment tools for the review packet. Students DO NOT NEED to have access to google in order to complete the packets. Should students require help there are several ways to reach out to Mr. Jonczak - Email is the most obvious, google classroom of course, or by setting up some alternate way of communication during teacher office hours. (Teacher office hours posted on Nandua Middle Website)

In civics class we talked often of the responsibilities and duties of citizens in our nation- What better time than these to practice what we learned! As you do your best to complete the packets, remember, it is your duty to be responsible and to work hard to better yourselves. This is a GREAT nation of people, but only when the citizens work to BE great! You can do this!

Remember, your teachers are here to help the best they can! Don't be afraid to reach out. If you are able, keep a close eye on your google classroom. Otherwise, we'll look for your emails!

Best- and good luck!

Mr. Jonczak

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## FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Fundamental political principles define and shape American constitutional government.

(Match the following principles to their definitions by writing in the correct response from the Word Box)

### Word Box

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Consent of the governed | • Representative government |
| • Democracy               | • Rule of law               |
| • Limited government      |                             |



### FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL PRINCIPLES (2a)

	People elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on their behalf.
	The government and those who govern are bound by the law, as are those who are governed.
	People are the source of any and all governmental power.
	Government where the people rule.
	Government is not all-powerful and may do only those things people have given it the power to do.

### THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (2c)

The Constitution of the United States is the guiding force for the implementation of these fundamental political principles.

- The preamble of a constitution sets forth the goals and purposes to be served by the \_\_\_\_\_
- The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America expresses the reasons the constitution \_\_\_\_\_.



#### Purposes of United States government according to the Preamble:

- To form a more perfect \_\_\_\_\_
  - To establish \_\_\_\_\_
  - To ensure domestic \_\_\_\_\_
  - To provide for the common \_\_\_\_\_
  - To promote the \_\_\_\_\_
  - To secure the blessings of \_\_\_\_\_
- The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America begins, " \_\_\_\_\_, " thereby establishing that the power of government comes \_\_\_\_\_

American constitutional government is founded on concepts articulated in earlier documents.

### AMERICAN DOCUMENTS AND THEIR INFLUENCES (2b)

Charters of the Virginia Company of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guaranteed the rights of _____ to colonists</li> </ul>
Declaration of Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stated grievances against the _____ of Great Britain</li> <li>Declared the colonies' independence from _____</li> <li>Affirmed "certain _____ rights" (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness)</li> <li>Established the idea that all people are _____ under the law</li> </ul>
Articles of Confederation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the first form of national government for the _____</li> <li>Maintained that major powers resided with _____</li> <li>Created weak central government (e.g., no power to tax and enforce laws)—led to the writing of the _____</li> </ul>
Constitution of the United States of America, including the Bill of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the structure of the United States government</li> <li>Guaranteed equality under the law with _____ rule and the rights of the _____ protected</li> <li>Affirmed individual worth and dignity of all people</li> <li>Protected the fundamental freedoms of _____, _____, _____, and _____</li> </ul>
The Virginia Declaration of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served as a model for the _____ of the Constitution of the United States of America</li> </ul>
Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirmed the idea of freedom of _____ beliefs and opinions</li> </ul>

### HOW CAN THE CONSTITUTIONS OF VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES BE CHANGED? (2d)

Constitution of the United States	Constitution of Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A change has to be <u>proposed</u>—action can be from _____ or _____</li> <li>Has to be approved—<u>Ratification</u> by the _____</li> </ul> <p>The amendment process is complex. To date, only _____ amendments have been added.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Proposal</u>—action by _____ or _____</li> <li>Approval or <u>ratification</u>—by _____ of Virginia</li> </ul> <p>The Virginia constitution has been rewritten several times.</p>

### CITIZENSHIP— RIGHTS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (3a)

- One of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America states that, "All persons \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside." From which amendment is this quote?
- A citizen is an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by birth or by choice, owes allegiance to that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Immigration and naturalization, particularly in the twentieth century, have led to an increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ society. To become a citizen through naturalization, a person must demonstrate knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This person must also demonstrate the ability to read, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ words in ordinary usage in what language?

### CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES (3b)

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes and protects the citizen's fundamental rights and liberties. Few rights, if any, are considered absolute.

The First and the Fourteenth \_\_\_\_\_ provide these fundamental rights and liberties.



#### First Amendment freedoms

- **Religion**—Government may not establish an \_\_\_\_\_ religion, nor endorse an official religion, or unduly interfere with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Speech**—Individuals are free to express their \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Press**—The press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Assembly**—Individuals may \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Petition**—Individuals have the right to make their views known to public \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Fourteenth Amendment

- Extends the due process protection to actions of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## CITIZENSHIP—DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (3c,d)

### Duties of responsible citizens

- Obey \_\_\_\_\_
- Pay \_\_\_\_\_
- Serve in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ if called
- Serve on a \_\_\_\_\_ or as  
a \_\_\_\_\_ in court  
when summoned

Citizens who choose not to fulfill  
these civic duties face \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Responsibilities of citizens

(A basic responsibility of citizenship is to contribute to the common good.)

- Register and \_\_\_\_\_
- Hold \_\_\_\_\_
- Communicate with government officials to influence  
government \_\_\_\_\_
- Serve in voluntary, appointed government positions
- Participate in \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep informed regarding \_\_\_\_\_
- Respect others' rights to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Civic responsibilities are fulfilled by choice; they are  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY REQUIRES THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ITS CITIZENS (3e)

### Ways for citizens to participate in community service

- Volunteer to support democratic institutions (e.g., \_\_\_\_\_).
- Express concern about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., as related to  
\_\_\_\_\_, public health and safety, \_\_\_\_\_).
- Help to make the community a good place to work and live (e.g., by becoming involved with  
\_\_\_\_\_, tutoring, \_\_\_\_\_ in  
nursing homes).

### **Review:**

1. What are two ways of obtaining citizenship in the United States of America?
2. What amendment allows someone in the United States to freely express their opinion—even  
against the government?
3. Which constitutional amendment caused states and local governments to have to guarantee the  
same rights as the federal government?
4. Which amendment to the Constitution prevents schools from teaching about only one religion  
and endorsing daily prayers?

## NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (6a)

The Constitution of the United States defines the structure and powers of the \_\_\_\_\_ government. The powers held by government are divided between the national government in \_\_\_\_\_, (location) and the governments of the 50 states. Legislative, executive, and judicial powers of the national government are distributed among three distinct and independent branches of government.

### Legislative Branch

- Consists of the Congress, a \_\_\_\_\_ (meaning two houses) legislature consisting of the \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ members based upon population of the states) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (100 members—2 per state)
- Makes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nation
- Approves the annual \_\_\_\_\_
- Confirms presidential \_\_\_\_\_
- Raises revenue through \_\_\_\_\_ and other levies
- Regulates \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ trade
- Declares \_\_\_\_\_

### Executive Branch

- Headed by the president of the United States, the chief \_\_\_\_\_ officer of the nation
- Executes the law of the land
- Prepares the \_\_\_\_\_ for congressional action
- Appoints cabinet officers, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ judges
- Administers the federal \_\_\_\_\_

### Judicial Branch

- Consists of the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the highest \_\_\_\_\_ in the land
- The Supreme Court exercises the power of \_\_\_\_\_
- The federal courts try cases involving federal \_\_\_\_\_ and questions involving interpretation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States

## SEPARATION OF POWER AND CHECKS AND BALANCES (6b)

The powers of the national government are separated among three branches of the government in ways that limit any one branch from abusing its power.

- **Separation of Powers**—The \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ I, II, and III defines the powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government.
- **Checks and Balances**—Each of the three branches of the national government limits the exercise of power by the other \_\_\_\_\_.



## SIMULATIONS (5g)

All citizens can learn the importance of the individual's participation in the political process either through direct involvement in campaigns or simulations.

Student participation in the democratic process can include:

- participating in \_\_\_\_\_
- participating in classroom and online \_\_\_\_\_



Participating in a simulation as a young adult is a great way to experience the excitement of an election. There are several sites on-line that provide simulations. Being careful to not go to unprotected sites, you might explore sites such as Nickelodeon, Scholastic Kids Votes, Girls, Inc., and Shaping Youth.

You and your classmates might want to organize an election in your school (after seeking permission, of course). If your school has a student council, you might decide to become involved by seeking an office, working on a friend's campaign, making a request of the student council by means of a letter or a petition. Writing an op ed piece for your school or local newspaper is another way to make your opinions known. If your school has no newspaper, perhaps you could suggest and organize one.

In the years of national elections in which the president is elected, you might try to organize an event in which students vote for the president. Using other classrooms in your school to represent the various states, you could even "experience" the process of an electoral college. Each class would conduct their election and then send a representative to help make the final determination for the presidency from the school as a whole. Even if there's not a national presidential election, there are state and local elections happening yearly.

### IDEAS FOR BECOMING INVOLVED IN YOUR SCHOOL:

- Run for a student council position. No student council? Perhaps you could request an appointment with the administration and investigate the possibility of starting a council.
- Think about how to make your school a friendly place for new students. Use your ideas to work for change.
- Is your school recycling or working toward reducing the school's carbon footprint? Research ideas of how your school might become a bit more "green".
- Are there students in your school who need assistance with supplies or clothing? Brainstorm some ways that your school could assist students in need.
- Think of things that would make your school a better place for all students—all of whom spend a lot of their young lives in school.

### IDEAS FOR BECOMING INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Interested in the election process? Find out who the Democratic and the Republican chairpersons are for your town, city, or county. Set up an appointment to meet with one or both chairs (and some communities may have a third party chair). Express your interest in becoming involved with politics. You will probably be surprised at how you might become more active in the political process for your community.
- Read your local newspaper for volunteer opportunities. Call and sign up.
- Check with leaders of your religious affiliation or a community organization. See what some of the needs are and ask how you might be of help.
- Brainstorm on needs for your community. Does your community need beautification? Litter reduction? Assistance for the homeless or elderly? The list can be endless—but doing something can be very satisfying personally.

Legislative Branch	Executive Branch	Judicial Branch
<p>The Congress checks the <u>president</u> when legislators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• override _____</li> <li>• vetoes _____</li> <li>• impeach and convict a _____</li> </ul> <p>The Congress checks the <u>courts</u> when legislators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirm or refuse to confirm judges/justices</li> <li>• _____ and convict judges/justices</li> </ul>	<p>The president checks <u>Congress</u> when the president</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposes _____</li> <li>• prepares an annual _____ for Congress to approve</li> <li>• calls _____ sessions of Congress</li> <li>• _____ legislation Congress has passed</li> </ul> <p>The president checks the <u>courts</u> when the president</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____ judges/justices</li> </ul>	<p>The courts check <u>Congress</u> when judges/justices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• declare acts of _____ to be unconstitutional</li> </ul> <p>The courts check the <u>president</u> when judges/justices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• declare _____ to be unconstitutional</li> </ul>

### THE LAWMAKING PROCESS (6c)

Officials who are elected to serve in the national legislatures (Congress) make laws.

What are two types of legislative powers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Expressed</u> (specifically listed in the _____ of the United States)</li> <li>• <u>Implied</u> (used to carry out _____ powers)</li> </ul>
What are some processes used to make laws in Congress?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing a bill (by a _____ or _____)</li> <li>• Working in _____</li> <li>• _____ on the floor of each house</li> <li>• Voting on the bill in each _____</li> <li>• Sending the bill to the _____ to sign into law</li> </ul>

Elected officials in Congress \_\_\_\_\_ and take action in response to problems or issues. Individuals and interest groups help shape legislation. The \_\_\_\_\_ powers of Congress are limited by the Constitution of the United States. Citizens (including students) learn the importance of the legislative process through direct involvement and/or simulations.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY:** With your teacher's guidance, think about a simulation that you might participate in to better understand the legislative process. In some classrooms, students participate in making rules for the class. Perhaps a committee could be selected to draft the rules. The rules could then be debated before the class takes a vote. A final step could be having the teacher sign off on the rules should he/she be in agreement. As the need for new rules and/or clarifications arise, students could propose new rules through their elected representatives. Several variations of such activities are possible during the school year.

## THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH (6d)

The executive branch plays a key role in the policymaking process. Presidential power is broad in both domestic and foreign affairs, but there are limits on what the president can and cannot do.

### Ways the executive branch influences policymaking

- Proposing legislation in an annual speech to Congress (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Appealing directly to the people
- Approving or \_\_\_\_\_ legislation
- Appointing \_\_\_\_\_ who carry out the laws



Cabinet departments, agencies, and regulatory groups interpret and execute the laws.

The president "wears many hats". Note the following roles for the president—all positions of power. Presidential power has grown in the years since the Constitution was ratified.

Chief of State	_____ head of the government
Chief Executive	Head of the _____ branch of government
Chief Legislator	Proposer of the _____ agenda
Commander-in-Chief	Head of the nation's _____
Chief Diplomat	Architect of American _____
Chief of Party	Leader of the _____ party that controls the executive branch
Chief Citizen	Representative of all of the _____

In this standard, you have studied some details of the national government (also known as the federal government)—specifically the executive and legislative branches. More details of the judicial branch are in an upcoming standard. Check yourself on the following questions.

1. The legislative branch is bicameral. What does bicameral mean?
2. What are some ways that the president can check Congress?
3. Who is the commander-in-chief of the nation? What is this role?
4. How does the judicial branch provide checks and balances for the executive and the legislative branches?

## CE 2

1. In the United States, the \_\_\_\_\_ is the basis of our government and laws.
2. There are some \_\_\_\_\_, or basic, political principles that define and shape our government:
  - a. Under the Constitution, people are the source of any and all \_\_\_\_\_ power. This concept is known as \_\_\_\_\_ which means that the government gets the right to govern from the people.
  - b. The government is not all powerful and can only do things that people have given them the power to do. This is known as \_\_\_\_\_ government.
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ states that the government and those who govern are bound by the law.
  - d. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a system in which people rule.
  - e. The United States has a \_\_\_\_\_ government, where people elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on their behalf.
3. The United States \_\_\_\_\_ was influenced by earlier historical documents, such as:
  - a. The Charter for the Virginia Company of London (1606)
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ Declaration of Rights (1776)
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1776)
  - d. The \_\_\_\_\_ (1781) and the \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Virginia Statute for \_\_\_\_\_ (1786)

**For the questions below, match the document to the fact given about it.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Charters of the Virginia Company of London | d. Articles of Confederation              |
| b. The Virginia Declaration of Rights         | e. Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom |
| c. The Declaration of Independence            | f. The Constitution of the United States  |

- \_\_\_\_ 4. Established the first form of government in the independent states
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Served as a model for the Bill of Rights and Constitution
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Guaranteed colonists the rights of Englishmen
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Stated grievances against the King of Great Britain
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Established the structure of the United States government
- \_\_\_\_ 9. Allowed for freedom of religious beliefs and opinions
- \_\_\_\_ 10. Had a weak central government that led to its downfall
- \_\_\_\_ 11. Confirmed "certain unalienable rights"
- \_\_\_\_ 12. Maintained that states had the major powers
- \_\_\_\_ 13. Protects the fundamental freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition
- \_\_\_\_ 14. Declared the colonies independence from Great Britain

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution expresses the reason the document was written..

16. The purposes of the United States government include:

- a. forming a more perfect \_\_\_\_\_, rather than independent states
- b. to establish \_\_\_\_\_
- c. to ensure domestic tranquility
- d. to provide for the common \_\_\_\_\_
- e. to promote the general welfare.
- f. to preserve the blessings of liberty

17. What are the first words of the Preamble of the Constitution?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Those words establish that the power of the government comes from whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. There are 27 \_\_\_\_\_, or changes the Constitution of the United States. To make a change there must be a \_\_\_\_\_ or action from either Congress or a convention. Then the states must \_\_\_\_\_ the changes.

20. In the state of Virginia, amending the Constitution is similar to changing the US Constitution, except that the proposal comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ or convention and the ratification is by the \_\_\_\_\_.

### CE 3

- The \_\_\_\_\_ establishes and protects the citizen's fundamental rights and liberties.
2. The first ten \_\_\_\_\_, or changes, to the Constitution are referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Constitution defines a \_\_\_\_\_ as an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by \_\_\_\_\_ or by choice, owes their allegiance to that government.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment to the Constitution defines \_\_\_\_\_ by saying "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside." In your own words, what does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_
5. There are two ways a person can obtain citizenship, by \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_, which means they change their nationality.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and naturalization particularly in the \_\_\_\_\_th century, have led to an increasingly diverse society.
7. To become a citizen through naturalization, a person must demonstrate knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ history and principles and the ability to speak and write words in ordinary usage in the \_\_\_\_\_ language.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment to the Constitution guarantees a citizen's fundamental rights and liberties. They include:
  - a. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ - a government may not establish an official \_\_\_\_\_, nor endorse, or unduly interfere with the free exercise of it.
  - b. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ - Individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs.
  - c. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ - The \_\_\_\_\_ has the right to gather and publish information, including that which criticizes the government.
  - d. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ - Individuals may gather peacefully.
  - e. Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ - Individuals have the right to make their views known to public officials.
9. The Fourteenth Amendment extends \_\_\_\_\_ protection to actions of the states. What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In order for the government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their civic duty. Duties of a citizen include:
  - a. Obeying \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Paying \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Serving in the \_\_\_\_\_ if called
  - d. Serving on a \_\_\_\_\_ or as a witness in court
11. Citizens who do not fulfill these civic duties face \_\_\_\_\_ consequences, such as fines or imprisonment.

12. Citizens have responsibilities that are voluntary, unlike their duties which are required.

Some responsibilities of a citizen include:

- a. Registering and \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Holding elective office
- c. Influencing government by communication with government officials
- d. Serving in voluntary appointed positions
- e. Participating in \_\_\_\_\_ campaigns
- f. Keeping informed regarding current \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Respecting others' rights to an equal voice in \_\_\_\_\_

13. A democratic society requires the active participation of its citizens. List at least three ways citizens can participate in community service.

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14. Good citizenship is demonstrated by personal traits. To be a good citizen a person should be:

- a. trustworthy and \_\_\_\_\_
- b. show courtesy and respect for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others
- c. be responsible, accountable and self-reliant
- d. have respect for the \_\_\_\_\_
- e. show \_\_\_\_\_, or pride in their country

1. The structure of the government is determined by the US \_\_\_\_\_. There are three branches of government: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Articles I, II and III defines the powers of these branches.
2. The legislative branch in the United States is called \_\_\_\_\_, a bicameral (two-chambers) legislature made up of \_\_\_\_\_ separate bodies, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ has 435 members based on the state's \_\_\_\_\_, while the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ members, 2 from each state.
4. The legislative branch makes the \_\_\_\_\_ for the nation, approves the annual \_\_\_\_\_, confirms presidential \_\_\_\_\_, raises revenue through \_\_\_\_\_ and other levies, regulates interstate and foreign trade and declares war.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ branch of government is made up of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States who acts as Chief Executive Officer of the nation. He prepares the \_\_\_\_\_ for Congress, executes the laws, appoints \_\_\_\_\_ officers, ambassadors and federal judges, and administers federal bureaucracy.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ branch consists of the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the highest court in the land and exercises the power of judicial review. Federal courts try cases involving federal law and questions about the interpretation of the Constitution.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ powers among the legislative, judicial and executive branches helps prevent any one branch from abusing its power.
8. Each of the three branches of national government can limit the powers of the other two. This is known as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The legislative branch can \_\_\_\_\_ vetoes from the \_\_\_\_\_ branch and impeach the president. To check and therefore balance the \_\_\_\_\_ branch, it can approve or impeach federal \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The executive branch can check and balance the \_\_\_\_\_ branch by vetoing acts of legislation and calling Congress into a special session. The president also gets to \_\_\_\_\_ federal judges to the \_\_\_\_\_ branch.
11. The judicial branch can limit the \_\_\_\_\_ branch by declaring laws \_\_\_\_\_. It can limit the \_\_\_\_\_ branch by declaring acts of the president unconstitutional too.
12. Each legislative body has certain powers. Some powers are \_\_\_\_\_ or specifically listed while others are \_\_\_\_\_ or used to carry out expressed powers.
13. Elected officials write \_\_\_\_\_ and take action in response to problems or issues and individuals and \_\_\_\_\_ help shape the legislation.

14. The lawmaking process is similar in both state and national governments. Elected officials:
- Work in \_\_\_\_\_ that handle a certain area of government (armed services, budget)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ issues on the floor
  - Voting on the \_\_\_\_\_ after it has come out of committee by both houses
  - Signing the \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_
15. The president can influence policymaking by proposing legislation in an annual speech to the legislature. This speech made by the president is called the \_\_\_\_\_ Address and is made each January.
16. Other ways the president can influence policy is by appealing directly to the \_\_\_\_\_ in speeches or public addresses, approving or \_\_\_\_\_ legislation, and \_\_\_\_\_ officials who carry out the laws.
17. Cabinet departments, agencies and regulatory groups, interpret and execute the \_\_\_\_\_ made by Congress.

Listed below are several titles the President holds. Match the title to the job the president does.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| _____ 18. Ceremonial head of the government                                | a. Chief Diplomat     |
| _____ 19. Head of the executive branch of the government                   | b. Chief Citizen      |
| _____ 20. Proposer of the legislative agenda                               | c. Commander in Chief |
| _____ 21. Head of the nation's armed forces                                | d. Chief of Party     |
| _____ 22. Architect of American foreign policy                             | e. Chief Executive    |
| _____ 23. Leader of the political party that controls the executive branch | f. Chief Legislator   |
| _____ 24. Representative of the people                                     | g. Chief of State     |

25. Choose one by underlining: Presidential power as (grown/lessened) since the Constitution was ratified.

**CHECKS AND BALANCES**

The Constitution gives each of the three branches of the federal government ways to check the actions of the other two. Read each action below and describe how it can be checked and by which branch of government. If necessary, refer to Chapter 5 and the Constitution in your text.

1. Both houses of Congress approve a bill that requires all children under 18 to wear uniforms to school.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The President stops an investigation of a crime that might involve people who are working for him.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The President signs a treaty that would give Alaska to the Soviet Union.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A federal judge is found guilty of accepting bribes.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The President believes that someone has been unfairly convicted of a crime in federal courts.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The President nominates his twenty-year-old daughter as a federal judge.

\_\_\_\_\_




7. The President vetoes a bill that Congress has approved.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Congress passes and the President signs a bill that forbids newspapers to criticize government leaders.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Branches of Government

<b>LEGISLATIVE BRANCH</b> 	Interprets the laws of the nation	Approves the annual budget
Has the power to review verdicts of legal cases	Executes or carries out the laws of the land	<b>JUDICIAL BRANCH</b> 
Makes the laws of the nation	Declares war	Has a bicameral legislature consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate
Is associated with the White House	<b>EXECUTIVE BRANCH</b> 	Raises revenue through taxes and other levies
Confirms appointments, such as federal judges, made by the president	Is associated with the U.S. Capitol	Consists of the federal courts, including the Supreme Court
Administers the federal bureaucracy, which is a large group of appointed people who help run the government	Settles disputes and questions that involve the interpretation of the Constitution	Hears lawsuits that involve any crime violating a national law
Is associated with the Supreme Court building	Prepares the annual budget for Congress	Headed by the president who is the chief executive officer of the nation
Tries cases in federal courts that involve federal law	Regulates interstate and foreign trade	Appoints cabinet officers, ambassadors, and federal judges

## The Federal System

We have learned that the Constitution of the United States established a system of government based on five fundamental political principles and ideas expressed in five earlier documents. The Constitution also established the principle of **federalism**. Federalism is the division of power between the states and the national government. Let's investigate how the Constitution outlines the powers divided and shared among the national, state, and local levels of government.

The federal form of government created by the Constitution establishes a **national government** that is supreme. The **primary responsibilities** of the national government are to conduct foreign policy and regulate commerce. This federal form of government also establishes individual **state governments**. The **primary responsibilities** of the state governments are to promote public health, safety, and welfare. In order to carry out these primary responsibilities, the Constitution also gives powers to each level of government.

Some powers given to the national government in the Constitution are **enumerated**. **Enumerated** or delegated powers are powers that are specifically given to the national government. They are **expressed** or stated in the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution feared that if the national government was too strong it might overstep its bounds. To protect against this, they allowed the national government very specific powers. Some of these enumerated powers include conducting foreign policy, regulating commerce, levying taxes, and providing for the country's defense.

Other powers given to the national government are **implied**. **Implied powers** are powers not specifically stated in the Constitution, but necessary for carrying out the enumerated powers. For example, the national government is given no enumerated power to create banks. However, it was seen as necessary for the national government to form a bank to aid in its enumerated power to coin money and regulate the economy. Forming a national bank is an example of an implied power.

## The Federal System

(continued)

The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution are **reserved** or saved for the states. Some of these reserved powers include the power to conduct elections, establish schools, regulate trade within a state, and establish local governments. The powers of local governments such as counties, cities, and towns are derived or come from the state.

The Constitution also denies or refuses to give some powers to the national and state governments. For example, the national government may not violate the Bill of Rights or change state boundaries. State governments may not print money or enter into treaties with foreign countries. Some powers are denied to both the national government and the state governments. Both are denied the power to permit slavery or refuse a citizen's right to vote due to race, color, or gender.

## FEDERALISM – CE.6

Write answers in complete sentences. Restate subject and verb from question in your answer.

1. What is Federalism?
2. Why did the Constitution establish the principle of federalism?\*
3. What are the primary responsibilities of the national government?
4. What are the primary responsibilities of the state governments?
5. What is an enumerated power? (definition)
6. What are some enumerated powers given to the national government? (examples)
7. Why do you think these powers were given to the national government and not the state governments?\*
8. What is an implied power? (definition)
9. Which powers are reserved for the states?
10. How do local governments get their powers?
11. Give an example of a power denied to the states.
12. Give an example of a power denied to states and the federal government.



## An Enduring Framework

## Making Inferences Using a Graphic Organizer

Study the graphic organizer below. It shows what powers the Constitution grants to the national government, what powers it grants to state governments, and what powers are shared. After you have read the list of powers, read each description below and the question that follows it. Decide whether the national government, a state government, or both have the power to do what is being described. To answer the question, write *delegated*, *concurrent* or *reserved* powers.

Federalism		
Powers of National Government	Shared Power	Powers of State Government
Maintain army and navy	Enforce laws	Conduct elections
Declare war	Establish courts	Establish schools
Coin money	Borrow money	Regulate businesses
Regulate trade between states and with foreign nations	Protect the health and safety of the people	Establish local governments
Make all laws necessary for carrying out delegated powers	Build roads	Regulate marriages
	Collect taxes	Assume powers not given to the national government or denied the states

1. \_\_\_\_\_ One country in the Middle East declares war and invades a neighboring country that the United States has promised to protect. Who has the power to send troops to help the country that was attacked?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A new school is needed because the number of children in the community has been growing rapidly. Who has the power to set up a new school?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Business owners have received a notice that as of the first of the year they must pay an increased fee for their business licenses. Who has the power to require business licenses?

Name .....

Date .....

Reinforcement .....

Chapter 9, Section 4

4. \_\_\_\_\_ A senator had to resign due to illness, and a special election is to be held to choose a new senator. Who has the power to call such elections?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A special interest group has urged that the dollar bill be replaced with a coin worth one dollar. If this idea is approved, who would have the power to create these new dollars?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A group of admirals is calling for a new submarine that can stay under water longer. Who has the power to order the development of a new submarine?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ City, state, and federal officials agree that more law enforcement officers are needed. Who has the power to hire law enforcement officers?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Trade between the United States and China has become important to businesses in both countries. Who has the power to offer a treaty to China that would outline a trade agreement?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The people in a new suburban area have complained that the roads are too narrow, and there are not enough traffic lights. Who has the power to provide a better transportation network for them?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Truckers who travel between states have been notified that they will be required to stop and have their vehicles inspected more often. Who has the power to regulate interstate trade?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ A new government office building is needed in the downtown area of a major city. Who has the power to borrow money to build the structure?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ After much debate, a change in marriage laws was passed. The old law said women had to be eighteen before they could get married. The new law allows women as young as sixteen to be married. Who has the power to make such a law?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ The government needs more money to pay its bills. Who has the power to get more money by raising taxes?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ A hundred new houses were built on the outskirts of town. The homeowners wanted to elect their own officials and levy their own taxes. Who has the power to establish a new town and local government?

## Branches of Government

The Constitution grants certain powers to each branch of the government. This separation of powers is what makes the United States' system of checks and balances so effective.

The president's duties include enforcing federal laws; appointing ambassadors, federal judges, and the heads of departments and agencies; making treaties; signing or vetoing bills; and serving as commander in chief of the armed forces.

Congress can create laws, approve or reject treaties and presidential appointments, override presidential vetoes, coin and borrow money, declare war, and control trade between states and between the United States and other countries.

The Supreme Court has three powers. It hears state and lower federal court cases that have been appealed. It rules on the constitutionality of federal and state laws. Finally, it tries cases involving foreign ambassadors and cases in which a state is a party.

*Below are ten actions that a branch of the federal government might take. On the blank line to the left of each, write whether the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court would be responsible for taking the action.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers are sent somewhere in the United States to enforce a federal law.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The ambassador to the United States from a foreign country is convicted of stealing and selling classified information.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A bill to cut social security benefits is vetoed.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A presidential veto is overridden and the bill becomes a law.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A woman from New Mexico is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A law is passed to increase the minimum wage to \$6.00 an hour.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ A state law barring a religious sect from practicing its religion is declared unconstitutional.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A man's appointment as attorney general of the United States is rejected.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A law is passed to cut social security benefits.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Marines are stationed in a small Caribbean nation to protect American interests there.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Levels of Government

*Some of the powers and functions of the three levels of the United States government are listed below. Place a check mark under the appropriate column to show which level of government is responsible for each power or function. Note that more than one level of government may be responsible for an action.*

	<u>Local</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>
1. prints and coins money	_____	_____	_____
2. taxes the incomes of citizens	_____	_____	_____
3. builds playgrounds	_____	_____	_____
4. issues licenses to professionals	_____	_____	_____
5. collects garbage	_____	_____	_____
6. makes treaties	_____	_____	_____
7. issues licenses to drivers of motor vehicles	_____	_____	_____
8. collects sales taxes	_____	_____	_____
9. declares war	_____	_____	_____
10. builds roads and highways	_____	_____	_____
11. maintains a police force	_____	_____	_____
12. collects property taxes	_____	_____	_____
13. maintains fire departments	_____	_____	_____
14. grants patents and copyrights	_____	_____	_____
15. builds schools and universities	_____	_____	_____



# The SOL HOME CONNECTION

CIVICS & ECONOMICS



## What's in Chapter 5?

### *How Virginia's Government Works: Our Commonwealth*

Explore the structure and powers of American government at the state level.

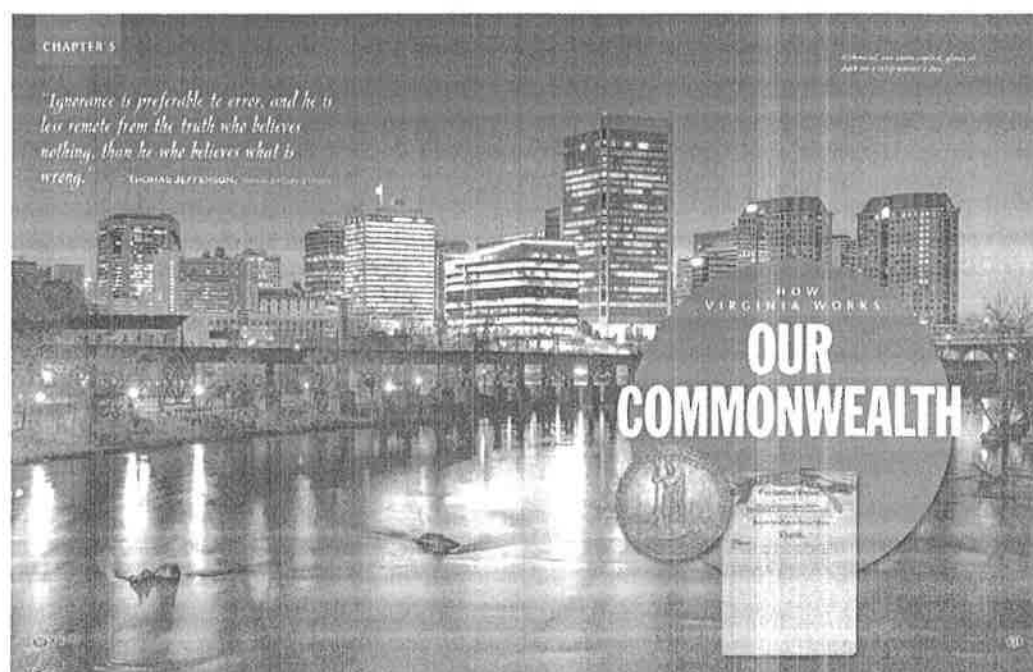
## Dinner Discussions

*Tie what your child is learning in school to your home by engaging in conversation.*

- Visit the Capitol Building and the General Assembly Building in Richmond. Tours provide opportunities to see our state's legislative process in action. Read and watch the news with your child to learn of proposed bills and recent state laws.
- Watch the governor's State of the Commonwealth address together. If possible, schedule a free tour of Virginia's Executive Mansion in Richmond, home of Virginia's governor's since 1813.
- Learn about Virginia courts. Challenge your child to find the location of the Virginia Supreme Court and other Virginia courts on a map of the Commonwealth.

## Enhancing the Learning

*The principle of federalism, established by the U.S. Constitution, divides power between states and the national government.* Virginia's Constitution distributes power among three branches of the state government. Share with your child that this chapter explores Virginia's government and the lawmaking process in our state.



## Chapter 5 Essential Knowledge

2 OF 2

REPRODUCIBLE 93

### CE.7 a

The Virginia Constitution distributes power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the state government.

The legislative branch is the General Assembly, a bicameral legislature—the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate—that meets annually for a fixed number of days.

The executive power is exercised by the governor, who is elected for a four-year term of office. The governor appoints members of the cabinet, who oversee specific functions of government.

The lieutenant governor and the attorney general are executive branch officers who are elected for a four-year term of office.

The judicial power is exercised by a court system that consists of four levels of courts:

- Supreme Court • Court of appeals • Circuit courts
- District courts (including small claims courts and juvenile and domestic relations courts)

### CE.7 b

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes a federal form of government in which the national government is supreme.

The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution of the United States of America are reserved to the states.

The Constitution of the United States of America denies certain powers to both the national and state governments.

Some powers are shared between the national and state government (concurrent powers).

#### *Primary responsibilities of each level of government*

- National: Conducts foreign policy, regulates commerce, and provides for the common defense
- State: Promotes public health, safety, education, and welfare

Tensions exist when federal mandates require state actions without adequate funding.

### CE.7 c

#### *The lawmaking process in the Virginia General Assembly*

- Introducing a bill
- Working in committees
- Debating the bill on the floor
- Voting on the bill
- Sending the bill to the other house
- Repeat process in the other house
- Sending the bill to the governor

Elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly write laws and take action in response to problems or issues. Individuals and interest groups help shape legislation.

#### *Primary issues in the legislative process at the state level*

- Education: To promote an informed and engaged citizenry (e.g., establish minimum standards for local schools)
- Public health: To promote and protect the health of its citizens
- Environment: To protect natural resources (e.g., improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay)
- State budget: To approve a biennial (two year) budget proposed by the governor
- Revenue: To levy and collect taxes

### CE.7 d

#### *Ways the executive branch influences policymaking*

- Proposes biennial budget • Proposes legislation
- Approves veto or line-item veto bills

#### *The governor of Virginia exercises the formal powers granted by the Virginia Constitution.*

In carrying out both the formal and informal powers of the office, the governor fills several roles, including

- Chief of state: Ceremonial head of the state government
  - Chief legislator: Proposer of the legislative agenda
  - Chief executive: Head of executive branch of state government
  - Party chief: Leader of the political party that controls the executive branch
  - Commander-in-chief: Head of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Virginia
  - Chief citizen: Representative of all Virginians
- Cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions, and regulatory boards
- Administer and enforce laws
  - Create regulations to monitor aspects of business and the economy
  - Provide services



# The SOL HOME CONNECTION

CIVICS & ECONOMICS



## Dinner Discussions

### What's in Chapter 6?

#### *On the Home Front:*

#### *Government in our Communities*

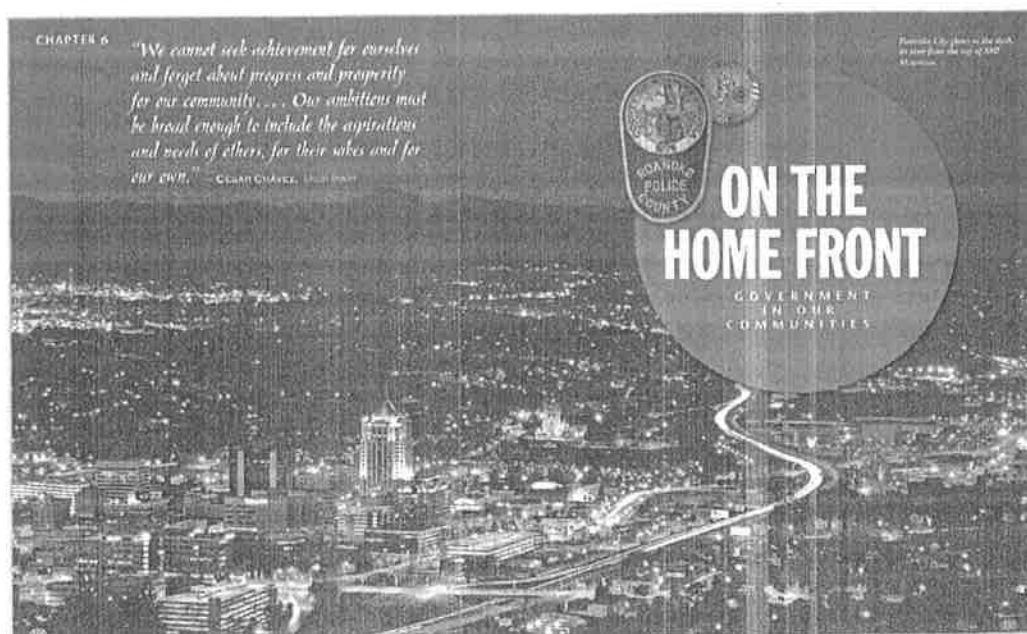
Take a closer look at American government at the local level. Students will describe the structure and powers of local government.

### Enhancing the Learning

*The principle of federalism, established by the U.S. Constitution, divides power between states and the national government.* Virginia's Constitution distributes power among three branches of the state government. Share with your child that this chapter explores Virginia's government and the lawmaking process at the local level.

*Tie what your child is learning in school to your home by engaging in conversation.*

- Visit your county, city, or town government building. Inquire if there are tours available and/or attend an open court proceeding together.
- While driving around your area, point out your local public services, such as public schools, police, fire, EMS, libraries, parks, trash and recycling locations, animal control, etc.
- Talk about all the different ways your family's life is touched by the local government. Discuss your regular daily and weekly activities and the many ways your local government ensures order and protects you during your daily life.
- Take your child to the polls with you at the next election and explain the parts of the ballot that touch on issues of importance to your town or city.



## Chapter 6 Essential Knowledge

2 OF 2

REPRODUCIBLE 117

### CE.8 a

#### • *Structure*

The units of local government in Virginia are counties, towns, and cities.

#### *County*

- Elected board of supervisors, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances (local laws) and adopting an annual budget
- A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
- Elected or appointed school board, which oversees the operation of the K–12 public schools in the county

#### *Town (incorporated)*

- Elected town council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget
- A mayor is elected either by the voters or the town council members
- A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
- Located within counties and its citizens receive and pay for services from both the town and county

#### *City*

- Elected city council, which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget
- A mayor is elected either by the voters or the city council members
- A manager may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government
- Elected or appointed school board, which oversees the operation of the K–12 public schools in the city

### *Virginia local governments exercise defined and limited powers, including the powers to*

- enforce state and local laws
- promote public health
- protect public safety
- educate children
- protect the environment
- regulate land use
- levy and collect taxes

- In every county and city, state courts resolve judicial disputes.
- The Virginia Constitution requires that voters in every locality elect a sheriff, a clerk of the circuit court, a commissioner of revenue, and a treasurer.

### CE.8 b

- All powers of local governments in Virginia are given to them by the Constitution of Virginia and acts of the General Assembly.
- Not all counties and cities are given the same powers. Cities have charters listing their powers.
- Counties and cities assist in the local implementation of state laws and programs.
- Local government derives its funding from its ability to raise revenue in addition to money that the state provides.

### CE.8 c

- An elected board of supervisors is responsible for passing laws (ordinances) in counties.
- An elected council is the local legislative body in independent cities and incorporated towns.
- Individuals can have the greatest influence on the decisions made by local government officials by communicating their opinions and preferences to those officials.

## Structures of State Government

The Commonwealth of Virginia's form of government is established by the **Virginia Constitution**. Like the national government, Virginia has three branches of government with executive, legislative, and judicial powers separated at the state level of government. What are some of the powers of the three branches of state government?

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The **General Assembly** is the legislative branch of the state government. Like the national government, it is organized as a **bicameral**, or two chamber, legislature. The **House of Delegates** is one chamber and the **Virginia Senate** is the other chamber. The General Assembly meets annually, or once each year, for a fixed number of days.

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Executive power is held and exercised by the **Governor**. The Governor is elected to a four year term of office. The Governor **appoints cabinet members** who are responsible for overseeing specific functions of the government.

Other executive branch officers are the **Lieutenant Governor** and the **Attorney General** who are also elected to a four year term of office.

### JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial power consists of a four level **state court system**. In order from highest court to lowest court: **Virginia Supreme Court; Court of Appeals; Circuit Courts; and District Courts**. District courts include juvenile and domestic relations courts and a small claims court.

## Roles and Powers of the Executive Branch: State Level

At the state level, the executive branch enforces the laws and plays a very important role in the policymaking process. **The Virginia Constitution** grants the exercising of formal powers to the **Governor of Virginia**.

What are the roles and powers of the executive branch at the state level? The Governor has many roles as this office carries out both the formal and the informal powers. The Governor is the **Chief of State, Chief Legislator** and the **Chief Administrator** of the state government. The Governor is the **Party Chief, or Chief of Party** as the leader of the *political party* that controls the executive branch. The Governor is also the **Commander-in-Chief** of the state National Guard and the State Police.

The executive branch at the state level has **cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions, and regulatory boards**. Each of these various units of the executive branch has the responsibility to **administer and enforce the laws** of the state, **regulate aspects of business and the state economy**, and **provide services** to the residents of the state.

## The Lawmaking Process ~ State Level

In Virginia, the members of the General Assembly are elected to make laws. How does the lawmaking process work at the **state level**?

The steps in the lawmaking process in Virginia are similar to the lawmaking process in the national government. The process begins when a **Delegate or a Senator proposes a bill** in the General Assembly. The bill is then referred or moved to a committee for review. Next it is **debated on the floor** of the Senate and the House of Delegates. It is then **voted on by both houses** (Senate and House of Delegates). If passed, **the bill is sent to the Governor** who can sign the bill into law.

Senators and Delegates write laws and take action in response to problems or issues that affect their voters. In some cases, individuals or interest groups may help shape how the bill is written.

At the state level, the legislative process focuses on several primary issues. One of the most important concerns today is **education** and the need to **promote and support an informed and engaged citizenry**. Establishing minimum standards for all schools is one way Virginia's government has addressed this concern. Another issue is **public health** and the need to promote and protect the health of its citizens by, among other things, **funding health benefits** for those who need them. The **environment** and the protection of natural resources is another critical issue for the state government. One of the ways that Virginia's government is helping the environment is by working to improve the quality of the water in the Chesapeake Bay. Another responsibility of the General Assembly is to **approve a biennial, or two year state budget** that has been prepared and submitted by the Governor. Along with the budget work, the General Assembly is responsible for **levying and collecting taxes** within the state.

## The Lawmaking Process ~ Individuals & Interest Groups

There are several ways that individuals can influence policymakers. The primary way is to get involved through voting, campaigning, or by seeking to hold an office. Individuals can also express their opinions by lobbying, demonstrating, or writing letters to the media or their political representatives. Lobbying is a term used to describe how individuals or interest groups try to influence legislators to introduce or vote for or against a particular bill. Individuals can also join interest groups to promote specific issues.

There are several ways that interest groups can influence public policy. They work to identify issues of importance, they make political contributions to political campaigns, and they directly lobby government officials.

## State Government

Answer in complete sentences by restating the subject and verb from the question.

1. How is the Commonwealth of Virginia's form of government established?
2. How is Virginia's government like the national government?
3. What is the General Assembly?
4. What are the two chambers of the General Assembly?
5. Who holds and exercises executive power and how long is the term?
6. Who does the Governor appoint to office?
7. What are 2 other executive branch officers at the executive branch?
8. How long are they elected to office?
9. What does the executive branch do at the state level?
10. What three roles does the Governor assume at the state level?
11. What role does the Governor play as the leader of the political party?
12. What other role does the Governor play?
13. What helps the governor carry out the laws?
14. What other responsibilities does the executive branch have on the state level?
15. Who is elected to make laws in Virginia
16. What are the steps in the lawmaking process?
17. At the state level, what does the legislative process focus on?
18. How do individuals and interest groups influence policymakers?



# Powers and Functions of State Government

It would not be possible to list all the powers that state governments have. This is because a state government can pass any law or take any action that does not conflict with the Constitution and does not interfere with the delegated powers of the federal government.

All states have reserved powers. These are powers that the Constitution did not specifically give to the federal government. For example, states can set up school systems and hold elections. They can do these things because the federal government was not given the power to do so.

Many reserved powers are policing powers. Policing powers help a state to look after the health and well-being of its people. For example, a state can require that all children attend school and be vaccinated against certain diseases. A state might also determine which classes children will take and the textbooks students will use. Outside of education, the state can do such things as set speed limits on state roads and highways, and shut down businesses that fail to meet health and safety standards.

States provide many services for their people. They build roads, bridges, parks, and recreational areas. They issue licenses to doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, and barbers, as well as licenses to those who hunt, fish, and drive motor vehicles. They provide police protection in the form of state patrols and a militia, or National Guard, to assist people during crises and emergencies. These are just a few of the many services a state provides for its residents.

1. What are reserved powers? Give two examples.

---

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2. What are policing powers? Give two examples.

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3. List any three services provided by states.

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4. Which state services do you consider most important? Why?

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## Rights Reserved for the People and the States

The Ninth Amendment assures the people of the states that they have rights other than those listed in the first eight amendments.

The Tenth Amendment explains that the states have all the powers that are not specifically given to the federal government. These powers include the powers to hold elections and to establish school systems. The states have authority over marriages and divorces. States also have what are called "policing powers." This means that a state is responsible for the safety and well-being of its people. It can require vaccinations for school children and licenses for such professionals as doctors, teachers, and lawyers. It can issue licenses to those who hunt, fish, and drive motor vehicles. It can also set speed limits on state highways. In addition, restaurants must follow specific health rules determined by the state. Finally, the citizens of a state can look to the state police to safeguard their homes and highways.



States share some powers with the federal government. These are called concurrent powers. They include the powers to tax, to pass laws, and to punish criminals.

1. List five policing powers that states have.

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2. List three powers states share with the federal government.

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3. Write *S* or *F* before each statement to indicate whether it is a state's responsibility or the responsibility of the federal government.

- a. \_\_\_\_ Issue a teaching license to someone who has applied and has met all the requirements
- b. \_\_\_\_ Make a treaty with a foreign country
- c. \_\_\_\_ Set health codes for restaurants
- d. \_\_\_\_ Issue a marriage license
- e. \_\_\_\_ Declare war

# Virginia's Government



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH IN VIRGINIA

Name of legislative body that makes state laws: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of legislature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of two chambers: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

How often they meet: \_\_\_\_\_

How long they meet: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN VIRGINIA

Title of elected person who heads executive power, making sure laws are carried out: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of term: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of additional elected executive branch officers: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Length of their terms: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional group of appointed members who oversee government functions: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of departments in Virginia: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

## JUDICIAL BRANCH IN VIRGINIA

Number of levels of courts in Virginia: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest court in the state: \_\_\_\_\_

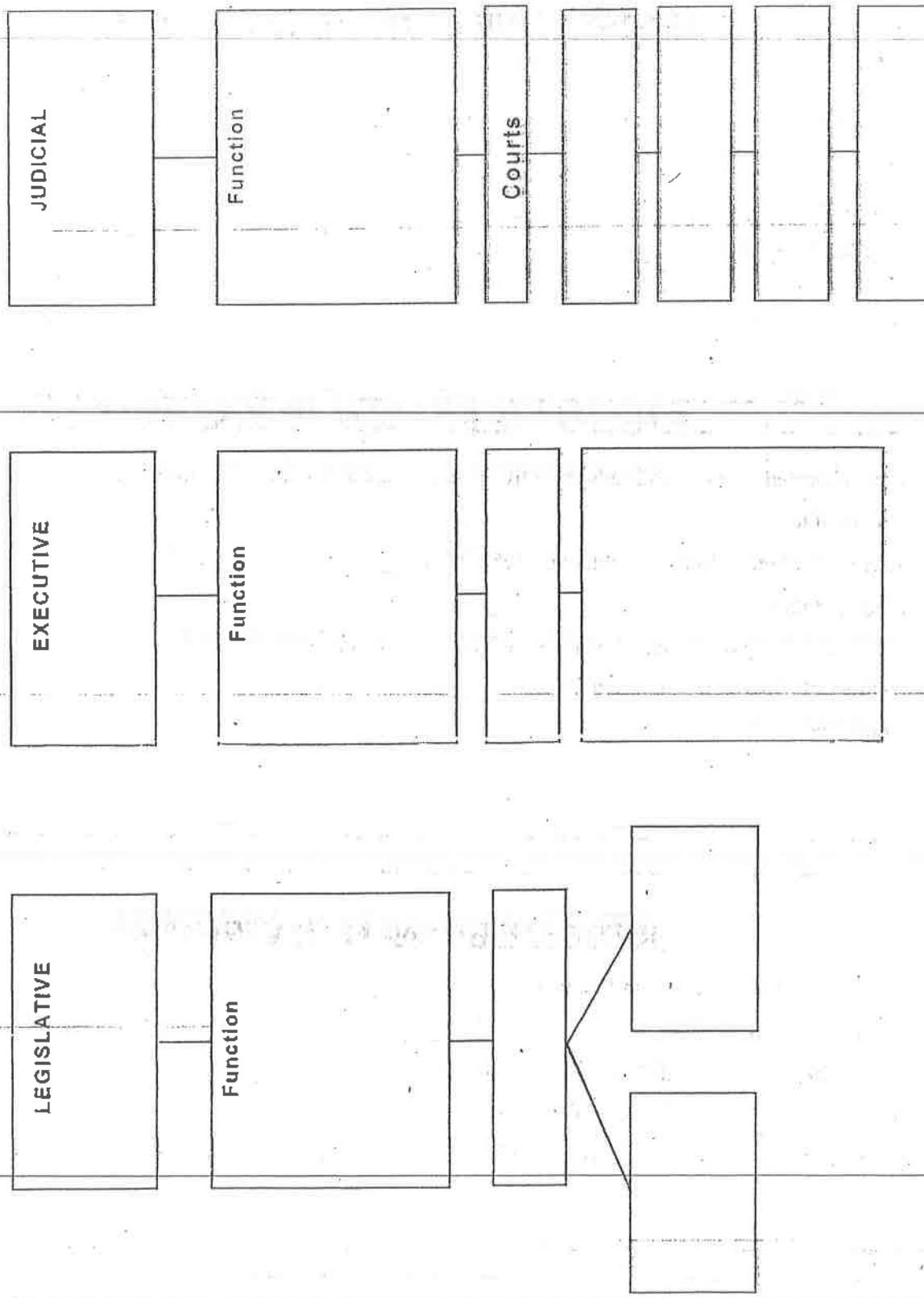
Court that rules on disputed verdicts from lower courts: \_\_\_\_\_

Trial courts that hear all types of major cases: \_\_\_\_\_

Courts that include small claims courts and juvenile and domestic relations courts: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

## VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT GRAPHIC ORGANIZER



## Reteaching Activity 3

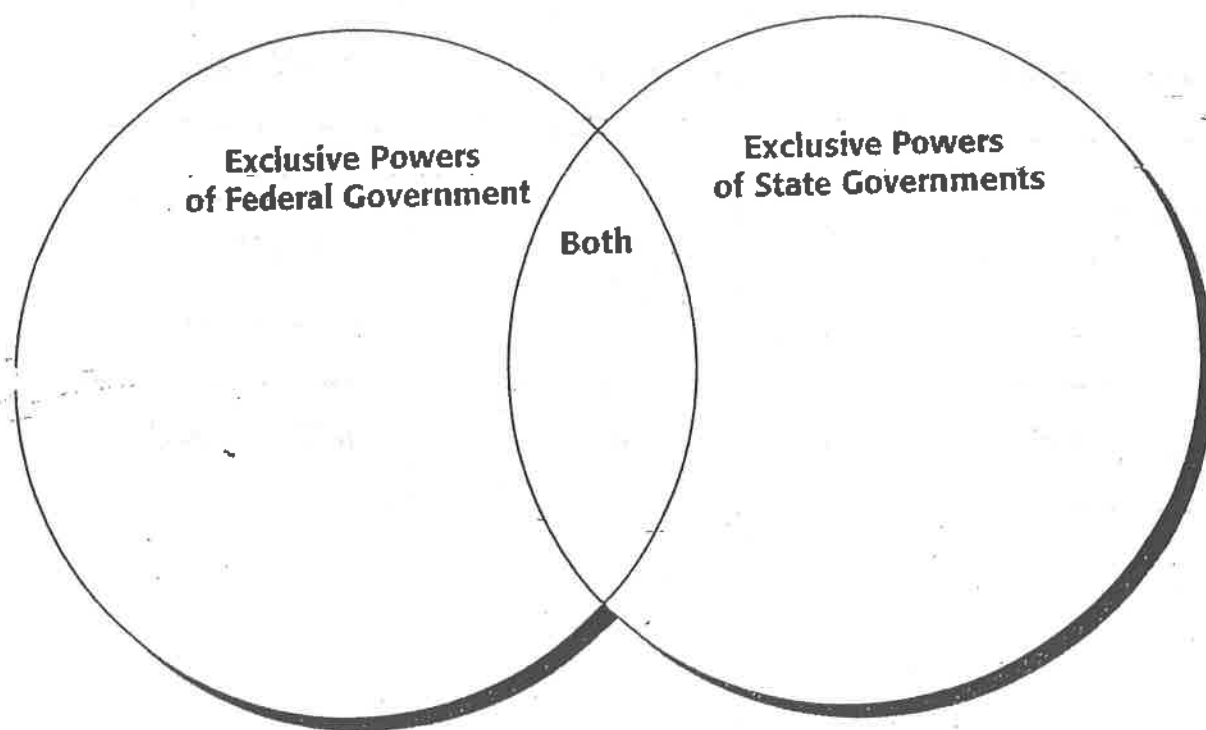


### The Constitution

Federalism is a government system in which the power to govern is divided between the federal, or national government, and the state governments. Federalism is one of the five fundamental principles that are the backbone of the United States Constitution. The other principles include popular sovereignty, the rule of law, separation of powers, and checks and balances.

**DIRECTIONS: Creating a Venn Diagram** The Constitution gives certain powers to the state governments exclusively, the federal government exclusively, and some authority to both. The powers listed below fall into one of three categories. Write the letter of each item below in the correct area of the Venn diagram.

CHAPTER 3




- A. Reserved Powers
- B. Expressed Powers
- C. Concurrent Powers
- D. Power to Regulate Trade Within States
- E. Power to Establish Schools
- F. Power to Coin Money
- G. Power to Establish Courts and Prisons

- H. Power to Make Treaties with Other Countries
- I. Power to Enforce Laws
- J. Power to Make Rules for Marriage and Divorce
- K. Power to Collect Taxes
- L. Power to Borrow Money

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Government Officials

rectangle

Directions: Use the key to complete the sheet. Each  will have a color AND a design.

MAYOR	CONGRESS	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PRESIDENT	GOVERNOR	LT. GOVERNOR
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	LOCAL COURTS	FEDERAL COURTS
VICE PRESIDENT	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE
HOUSE OF DELEGATES	CIRCUIT COURTS	SENATE OF VIRGINIA

KEY

Legislative = Red


Executive = Yellow

Judicial = Blue

Local = Horizontal Stripes

State = Vertical Stripes

National = Dots

- 
1. What do local governments adopt and enforce?
  2. ~~Who is responsible for passing ordinances at the county level?~~
  3. Who is the local legislative body in independent cities and incorporated towns?
  4. What is the elected council responsible for doing?
  5. Who has the greatest influence on the decisions made by local government?
  6. What do all citizens need to learn?
  7. How can they learn the importance of participating in local government?
  8. Why might local government be given more responsibility?
  9. What may local officials be required to do?
  10. What is an example of a defined or limited power that Virginia local governments carry out?
  11. How will that power be affected by international issues and events?
  12. Why will local officials have to make policy decisions?
  13. What else may local governments have the power of doing?
  14. How else may public officials respond to current global issues at the local level?
  15. What other responsibility will local officials have to deal with?
  16. How could localities protect the environment?



1. Where does the authority of local governments come from?
2. How are local government powers given to the localities?
3. Where can a city's powers be found?
4. What are the units of local government in Virginia called?
5. Who created these political subdivisions?
6. What do local governments do in Virginia?
7. What do these powers include?
8. What does every county in Virginia have?
9. What are the powers of the elected Board of Supervisors?
10. What does every Virginia city and county elect or appoint?
11. What are the powers of the School Board?
12. What does each Virginia city elect?
13. What do the officials on the City Council do?
14. What do all cities have?
15. Who else do VA voters elect on the local level?



# The Role of Local Government

Local governments provide a large number of services for citizens. These services range from putting up road signs to putting out brush fires. The number of services provided by the local government depends largely on the size of the community.

All local governments provide police and fire protection. Although the police department may be quite small and the fire department may be voluntary, such services are still available. Local governments also build and repair streets, maintain street lights and traffic signals, and provide for garbage collection. Many offer water, sewer, and electric services as well.

Local government also plays a role in public education. In most states, each school district is run by a board of education and a superintendent who make decisions about setting policies, hiring teachers, and purchasing equipment and supplies. The board members are either elected by local voters or appointed by the local government.

The list of services provided by local governments is long. Local governments might build playgrounds, swimming pools, and community centers. They might construct libraries, museums, zoos, and botanical gardens. Many provide public transportation. Nearly all local governments maintain health departments that help prevent the spread of disease.



1. List seven services performed by local governments.

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2. Why is it better that local government rather than the federal government is responsible for the services you listed above?

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3. How much influence do you think the federal government should have on the policies and decisions of local school districts? Why?

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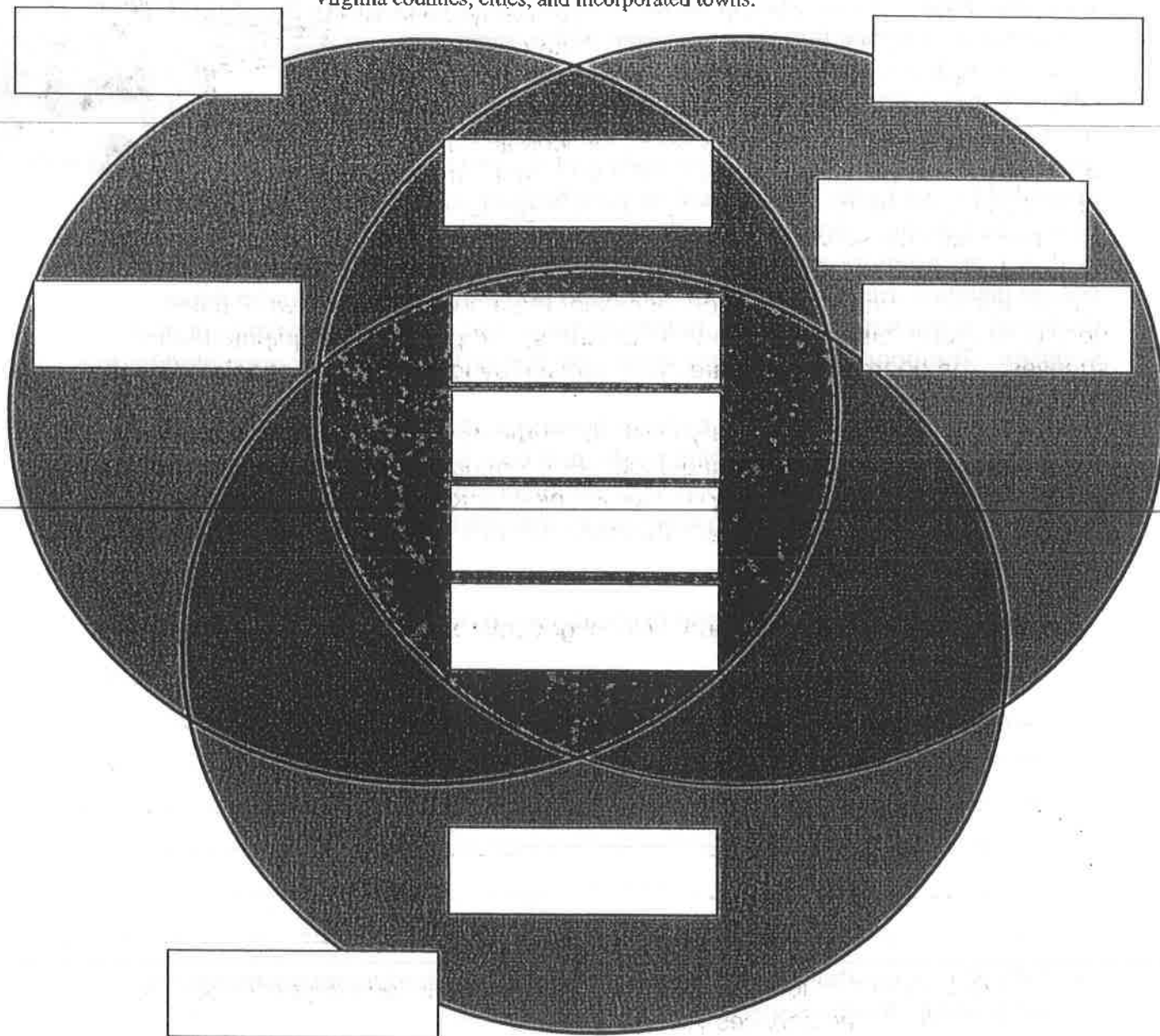
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# Comparing Local Governments

REPRODUCIBLE 104

**Directions:** Cut out each word card below, and glue or tape it into the appropriate part of the Venn Diagram to compare the government structure in Virginia counties, cities, and incorporated towns.



Elected board of supervisors	Enacting ordinances	Adopting an annual budget	Elected city council
Elected mayor	Elected town council	Exercise legislative powers	Elected or appointed school board
VIRGINIA COUNTIES	VIRGINIA CITIES	VIRGINIA INCORPORATED TOWNS	Hired administrator or manager

### The Lawmaking Process ~ Local Level

We now know how our national and state governments make laws. How do localities (local level) enact local ordinances, or laws, necessary to exercise their powers?

Local governments adopt and enforce ordinances in order to provide services to their residents. At the county level, the elected **Board of Supervisors** is responsible for passing ordinances, or laws. Independent cities and incorporated towns have an **elected council** as the local legislative body. The elected council is responsible for passing ordinances or laws.

The greatest influence on the decisions made by local government officials comes from individuals within the local community. All citizens need to learn the importance of individual participation in the lawmaking process through direct participation and simulations.

### Impact of International Issues and Events on Local Governments

With the growth of the global economy and the interconnectedness of nations, it is important to understand that **local government may have more responsibility**. Local officials may be required to plan and put into action public policies in response to international issues and events that are outside of their control. What are some of these international issues and events that might require action by local government?

As you read earlier, in Virginia, local governments exercise, or carry out defined and limited powers such as **promoting public health**. With the impact of international decision making at the local level, that means that local officials will have to make policy decisions when dealing with public health concerns such as the H1Ni flu epidemic in order to protect public health.

Local governments may also have the power of **protecting the public safety** in the event of a terrorist attack. Or they may have to respond to current global issues at the local level by putting into effect public policy supporting **economic development** in the global economy. That means local officials will need to adapt to 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies to attract businesses to their city, town, or county.

The responsibility of **protecting the environment** will also make it necessary for local government officials to formulate and implement policies that might, for instance, promote wildlife conservation or clean up the Chesapeake Bay. As you can see, the impact of international issues on local decision making may eventually fall in the hands of local government and communities.

### Structures of Local Government

What is the relationship between the state and local governments? The authority of local governments in Virginia comes from the state. Local government powers are given to the localities (local government) by the Constitution of Virginia and acts of the General Assembly. However, not all counties and cities are given the same powers. Cities have *charters* and their powers are listed in the city charter.

The units of local government in Virginia are political subdivisions created by the General Assembly. In Virginia, local governments exercise, or carry out defined and limited powers. These powers include: **enforcing state and local laws; promoting public health; protecting the public safety; educating the children; protecting the environment; regulating land use; and levying and collecting taxes.**

The units of local government in Virginia are its counties, towns, and cities. These units have officials, or people in charge that carry out legislative, executive, and judicial powers. So what are the *units* of local government and which *officials* are locally elected?

Every Virginia county (unit) has an **elected Board of Supervisors** (officials). Their powers include carrying out legislative powers, enacting ordinances or local laws, and adopting local budgets.

Every Virginia city *and* county (unit) also elects or appoints a **School Board** (officials). Their powers include overseeing, or supervising the operations of public schools.

Each Virginia city (unit) elects a **City Council** (officials) who exercises legislative powers, enacts ordinances, and adopts an annual budget. All cities have **mayors** that are elected by the voters or the city council members.

Each Virginia *incorporated* town (unit) elects a **Town Council** (officials), who are responsible for carrying out legislative powers, enacting ordinances, and adopting an annual budget.

In all Virginia counties, towns, and cities, the elected legislative branch has the choice of hiring a **manager** to oversee local government operations.

In every Virginia locality, judicial disputes are resolved by **state courts**. Judges in each locality hear cases in circuit courts, district courts, juvenile and domestic relations courts and in small claims courts.

The Virginia Constitution also gives voters the responsibility to elect a **sheriff**, a **clerk of the circuit court**, a **commissioner of revenue**, and a **treasurer**.

## STATE GOVERNMENT (7a)

The form of government of the Commonwealth of Virginia is established by the Virginia \_\_\_\_\_, Legislative, executive, and judicial powers are separated at the state level of government.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	EXECUTIVE BRANCH	JUDICIAL BRANCH
<p>The legislative branch is the <b>General Assembly</b>—a bicameral (two chambers) legislature :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House of _____</li> <li>Virginia _____</li> </ul> <p>These chambers meet annually for a fixed number of days.</p>	<p>The executive power is exercised by the <b>governor</b>, who is elected for a _____-year term* of office. The governor appoints members of the _____, who oversee specific functions of government.</p> <p>The <b>lieutenant governor</b> and the <b>attorney general</b> are executive branch officers who are _____ for a _____-year term of office.</p> <p><i>*Virginia is the only state in the United States in which the governor can not run and serve two terms consecutively.</i></p> <p><i>-from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service—UVA</i></p>	<p>The judicial power is exercised by a <b>court system</b> that consists of four levels of courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Court</li> <li>Court of _____</li> <li>_____ courts</li> <li>District courts (including small claims courts and _____ and domestic relations courts)</li> </ul>

## RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS (7b)

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes the principle of \_\_\_\_\_, which is the division of power and sharing between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ governments. The expansion of the national government's powers into areas traditionally reserved to the states has altered the relationship of states to the national government.

National Government	State Government
The Constitution of the United States of America establishes a federal form of government in which the national government is _____.	The powers not given to the national government by the Constitution of the United States of America are reserved to the _____.
The Constitution of the United States of America _____ powers to both the national and state governments.	
Primary Responsibility of National Government	Primary Responsibility of State Government
Conduct foreign policy, regulate commerce, and provide for the common _____.	Promote public health, _____, and welfare
Tensions exist when federal mandates require state actions without adequate _____.	

## LAWMAKING PROCESS (7c)

Members of the Virginia General Assembly are elected to make state \_\_\_\_\_. Elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly write laws and take action in response to problems or issues. Individuals and interest groups help shape \_\_\_\_\_.

The lawmaking process in the Virginia General Assembly includes:

- Introducing a \_\_\_\_\_
- Working in \_\_\_\_\_
- Debating the bill on the floor of each house
- Voting on a bill in each house
- Sending the bill to the \_\_\_\_\_ to sign into law

Compare this process with the lawmaking process by Congress (CE-6c)

The primary issues in the legislative process at the state level:

- **Education** - to promote an informed and engaged citizenry (i.e., establish minimum \_\_\_\_\_ for local schools) *Note: the Standards of Learning (SOL) were directed and approved by the General Assembly*
- **Public health** - to promote and protect the \_\_\_\_\_ of its citizens (i.e., fund health benefits)
- **Environment** - to protect natural resources (i.e., improve water quality in the \_\_\_\_\_ Bay)
- **State Budget** - to approve a \_\_\_\_\_ (two year) budget prepared by the Governor
- **Revenue** - to levy and collect \_\_\_\_\_

## THE EXECUTIVES (7d)

The executive branch enforces the laws and plays a key role in the policymaking process. The governor of Virginia exercises the formal powers granted by the \_\_\_\_\_.

In carrying out both the formal and informal powers of the office, the governor fills several roles including:

- chief of \_\_\_\_\_
- chief legislator
- chief \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ chief
- commander-in-\_\_\_\_\_

Cabinet secretaries and departments, agencies, commissions, and regulatory boards:

- \_\_\_\_\_ laws
- enforce the \_\_\_\_\_
- regulate aspects of \_\_\_\_\_ and the economy
- provide \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** You will study more about the state judicial system in Standard 10.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (8a)

The units of local governments in Virginia are political subdivisions created by the

\_\_\_\_\_. The units of local government in Virginia are counties, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Local governments exercise legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

COUNTIES	TOWNS	CITIES
Each Virginia county has an elected _____ _____ which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances (local laws) and adopting an _____ budget.	Each Virginia incorporated town has an elected _____ _____ which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget.	Each Virginia city has an elected _____ which exercises legislative powers, enacting ordinances and adopting an annual budget. A _____ is elected either by the voters or the city council members.
Each Virginia county and city has an _____ or appointed <b>school board</b> which oversees the operation of the K-12 public schools in the county or city.	A _____ is elected either by the voters or the town council members.	Each Virginia county and city has an elected or appointed <b>school board</b> which oversees the operation of the K-12 public schools in the county or city.  <i>*Cities may decide to have their own schools, but some may elect to not do so—meaning students would then attend county schools.</i>

- In Virginia counties, towns, and cities a \_\_\_\_\_ may be hired by the elected legislative branch to oversee the operations of the local government.
- In every Virginia locality, state courts resolve judicial disputes. Judges of the circuit courts, district courts, juvenile and domestic relations courts, and small claims courts hear cases in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Virginia Constitution requires that voters in every locality elect a \_\_\_\_\_, a clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ court, a commissioner of \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_.

Virginia local governments exercise defined and limited powers, including the power to—

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • enforce state and local _____ | • protect the _____      |
| • promote public health         | • regulate _____ use     |
| • protect public _____          | • levy and collect _____ |
| • _____ children                |                          |

*You have now studied the structure of national, state, and local governments. There are many similarities but also differences. All three levels of government strive to work together to ensure fair and just laws and comprehensive services using their designated powers.*

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE GOVERNMENT (8b)

All powers of local governments in Virginia are given to them by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Virginia and acts by the \_\_\_\_\_. (Not all counties and cities are given the same powers. Cities have charters listing their \_\_\_\_\_.)

## LAWMAKING—OR ENFORCING ORDINANCES (8c)

Counties, cities, and towns adopt and enforce ordinances to provide services for their residents.

- An elected \_\_\_\_\_ is the local legislative body in counties and is responsible for passing laws (ordinances) for the county.
- An elected \_\_\_\_\_ is the local legislative body in independent cities and incorporated towns.

\_\_\_\_\_ can have the greatest influence on the decisions made by local government officials. All citizens can learn the importance of the individual's participation in the policymaking process through \_\_\_\_\_ participation and simulations.

## Learning about the People Who Provide Leadership in Your Locality—

1. Who is your county administrator or mayor? \_\_\_\_\_

2. List the names of your Board of Supervisors — or your town or city council members.

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3. **Bonus:** Can you list the names of the following elected officials in your locality?

➤ Sheriff \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Clerk of Circuit Court \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Commissioner of Revenue \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

All of these names should be easily found on the Internet or in your local newspaper. See if you can find a newspaper clipping about one of your local officials.



# The SOL HOME CONNECTION

CIVICS & ECONOMICS



## What's in Chapter 8?

***Order in the Court: How the Law Works in our State and the Nation.***

This chapter explores the judicial systems established by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia.

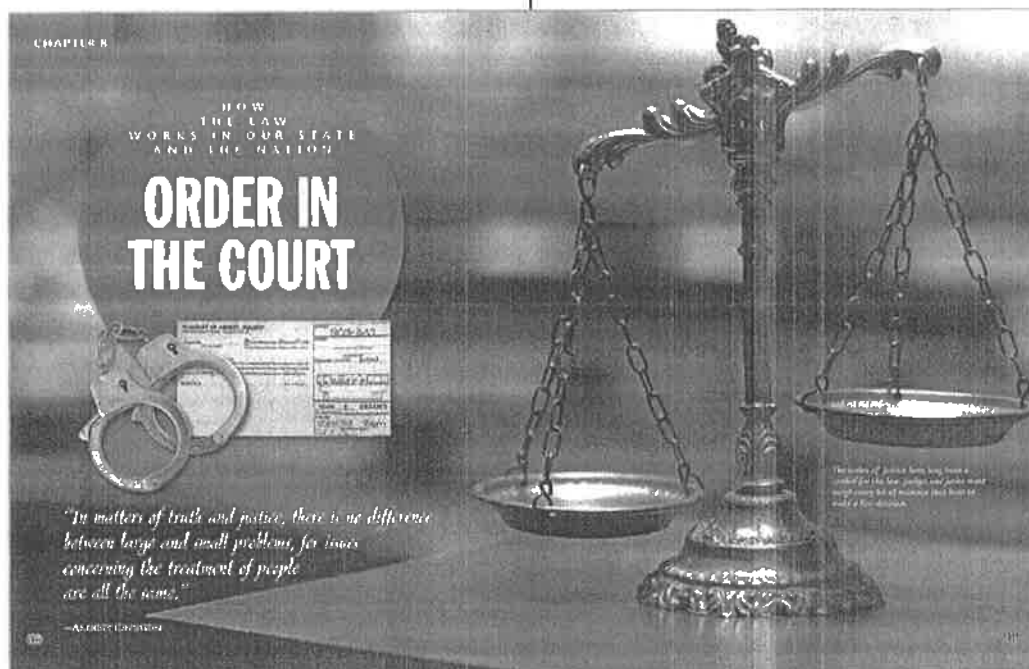
## Enhancing the Learning

***Court cases are continually in the news.*** Select cases that are appropriate for your family to discuss, noting the level of court in which the case is being held, when and if it is an example of judicial review, whether it is civil or criminal, and how due process is or is not being served.

## Dinner Discussions

***Tie what your child is learning in school to your home by engaging in conversation.***

- Visit a local or federal court building. Ask if there are age appropriate tours or programs for your child to participate in.
- Talk about landmark cases you remember studying as a student and the impression they left on you when they occurred.
- When you read, hear, or see a case on the news involving the Virginia Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court, point it out to your child and discuss how it got to the highest level of court.



## Chapter 8 Essential Knowledge

### CE.9 a

#### *Terms to Know*

- **Jurisdiction:** authority to hear a case
- **Original Jurisdiction:** authority to hear a case first
- **Appellate Jurisdiction:** authority to review a decision of a lower court
- **Felony:** a serious crime
- **Misdemeanor:** a smaller or less serious offense

*The United States has a court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from the Constitution of the United States and federal laws.*

- U.S. Supreme Court: Justices, no jury; appellate jurisdiction; limited original jurisdiction
- U.S. Court of Appeals: Judges, no jury, appellate jurisdiction
- U.S. District Court: Judge, with or without jury; original jurisdiction

*Virginia, like each of the other 49 states, has its own separate court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from Virginia's constitution and state laws.*

- Virginia Supreme Court: Justices, no jury; appellate jurisdiction; limited original jurisdiction
- Court of Appeals of Virginia: Judges, no jury; appellate jurisdiction to review decisions of circuit courts
- Circuit court: Judge, with or without jury; original jurisdiction for felony criminal cases and for certain civil cases; appellate jurisdiction from district courts
- General district court and juvenile and domestic relations court. Judge, no jury; original jurisdiction for misdemeanors in civil cases generally involving lower dollar amounts and original jurisdiction in juvenile and family cases.

### CE.9 b

- The supreme courts of United States and Virginia determine the constitutionality of laws and acts of the legislative and executive branches of government. This power is called "judicial review."
- *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle of judicial review at the national level.

- The Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the land.
- State laws must conform to the Virginia and United States constitutions.

### CE.9 c

#### *Criminal case*

- In a criminal case, a court determines whether a person accused of breaking the law is guilty or not guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony.

#### *Procedure for criminal cases*

- A person accused of a crime may be arrested if the police have probable cause.
- The case proceeds to an arraignment where probable cause is reviewed, an attorney may be appointed for the defendant, and a plea is entered.
- The accused may be committed to jail or released on bail.
- In a felony case, a preliminary hearing is conducted to see if there is probable cause. If probable cause is determined, a grand jury will determine if there is enough evidence to indict the accused.
- In a misdemeanor case, there is no preliminary hearing or grand jury. A trial date is set instead.
- A court date is set, and a trial is conducted.
- A guilty verdict may be appealed.

#### *Civil case*

- In a civil case, a court settles a disagreement between two parties to recover damages or receive compensation.

#### *Procedure for civil cases*

- The plaintiff files a complaint to recover damages or receive compensation.
- Cases can be heard by a judge or a jury.
- A ruling is issued.
- Cases can be appealed.

### CE.9 d

#### *Term to know*

- **Due process of law:** The constitutional protection against unfair governmental actions and laws

#### *Due process protections*

- The 5th Amendment prohibits the national government from violating due process.
- The 14th Amendment prohibits state and local governments from violating due process.
- The Supreme Court has extended the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, based upon the due process clause.

## Structure and Powers of National, State, and Local Governments: The Judicial Branch

### Federal Level

The Judicial branch is organized into a **dual court system**. This system is made up of federal courts and state courts. At the national or federal level, the judicial body consists of the **Supreme Court of the United States** and the **federal courts**.

The **U.S. Supreme Court** has no jury. It consists of one chief justice and 8 associate justices. These justices serve for life and are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate. The **jurisdiction** of the U.S. Supreme Court comes from the Constitution. Jurisdiction is the right of a court to hear or listen to a case and make a decision. The Supreme Court has **appellate** and **limited original** jurisdiction. Appellate jurisdiction means that it can review the decisions of lower courts. The Supreme Court may decide to hear a case or it can let the decision of the lower court stand or remain. Limited original jurisdiction means that it can hear some cases before any other court hears them. These original jurisdiction cases often involve foreign diplomats or states.

The U.S. Supreme Court has the power of **judicial review**. This means that it can decide if laws passed by the legislative branch or actions taken by the executive branch are in agreement with the Constitution, the supreme law of the land. This principle of judicial review was established by Chief Justice John Marshall during a court case known as *Marbury v. (versus) Madison* in the early 1800s. It is an important check on the powers of the other branches of government.

Other federal courts include the **U.S. Court of Appeals**, and the **U.S. District Court**. These courts try cases that involve federal law and U.S. Constitutional issues. The United States federal court system is divided into 12 judicial circuits or districts. Each circuit has its own court of appeals. Like the **U.S. Supreme Court**, these courts have **justices** who are appointed for life and no jury. The jurisdiction of the court of appeals is appellate. This means that it reviews the decisions of lower courts and decides if the original trial was fair. The justices may uphold the decision of the lower court or send the case back to the lower court for a new trial.

The **U.S. District Court** is the lowest level of the federal court system and is a trial court. There are 94 district courts in the United States. The judges who preside over these courts are appointed for life by the president and approved by the Senate. These federal judges hear civil and criminal cases. The U.S. District court has original jurisdiction. This means that it hears cases before any other courts.

## Structure and Powers of National, State, and Local Governments: The Judicial Branch

(continued)

### State Level

In addition to the federal courts, the dual court system of the United States has state courts. Like the other forty-nine states, Virginia has its own court system. The organization and jurisdiction of Virginia's courts come from Virginia's constitution and state laws.

The highest judicial level in Virginia is the **Virginia Supreme Court**. Like the U.S. Supreme Court, this court consists of justices and has no jury. Its jurisdiction includes limited original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction. Its appellate jurisdiction makes it the court of final appeal in Virginia. This means that its decisions are final at the state level.

The judicial level below the Supreme Court in Virginia is the **Court of Appeals**. This court was established in 1985 to handle the increased number of appeals coming from Virginia's circuit courts. It has appellate jurisdiction, consists of 11 judges, and has no jury.

Below the Court of Appeals in Virginia is the **Circuit Court**. These courts have judges and juries. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in criminal cases and certain civil cases that involve large monetary or financial claims. They also have appellate jurisdiction from Virginia's lower district courts.

The lower courts of Virginia are called **General District Courts**. These courts do not hold jury trials. All cases are heard by a judge who makes the final ruling. General district courts have original jurisdiction of all misdemeanors under state law and all criminal offenses involving local ordinances or laws. They also hear civil cases involving lower monetary amounts.

Another part of Virginia's district court system is the **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**. These courts hear juvenile and family cases.

In addition to Virginia's court system, each judicial district of the state has an office of the **magistrate**. Magistrates issue or deliver search warrants, subpoenas, arrest warrants, and summons. They also set bail when a person has been charged with a crime.

## Interactive Notes – Judicial Branch

Answer in complete sentences (restate question) on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How is the Judicial branch organized?
2. What makes up this system?
3. What does the judicial body consist of at the national level?
4. Who makes up the Supreme Court?
5. How long do they serve?
6. Where does the jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court come from?
7. What does jurisdiction mean?
8. What type of jurisdiction does the U.S. Supreme Court have?
9. What does appellate jurisdiction mean?
10. What does limited original jurisdiction mean?
11. Based on what you have learned, why does the Senate have to approve justices appointed by the president?
12. What power does the Supreme Court have?
13. What does judicial review mean?
14. How was the principle of judicial review established?
15. Why is judicial review important?
16. What is the jurisdiction of the U.S. Court of Appeals?
17. What is the lowest level of the federal court system?
18. Who presides over this court and how long do they serve?
19. What type of jurisdiction does the U.S. District Court have?
20. What does original jurisdiction mean?



## **JUDICIAL BRANCH – STATE LEVEL**

**Write answer in complete sentences (restate question) on separate paper.**

1. What documents are used to organize Virginia's courts and give them their jurisdiction?
2. What is the highest judicial level in Virginia?
3. How is the Virginia Supreme Court similar to the U.S. Supreme Court?
4. What kind of jurisdiction does the VA Supreme Court have?
5. Why is it called the court of final appeal?
6. What type of jurisdiction does the Court of Appeals have?
7. What type of jurisdiction does the Circuit Court have?
8. Who makes the final ruling in General District Courts?
9. What type of jurisdiction do general district courts have?
10. In which courts are juvenile and family matters heard?
11. What does each judicial district in Virginia have?
12. Describe the responsibilities of a magistrate.
13. What does the Circuit Court have, that no other court in Virginia has?



## CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW

Restate question, answering in a complete sentence on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What kinds of disputes do courts settle?
2. What does civil law deal with?
3. What happens in a civil case?
4. Who hears civil cases?
5. How can civil cases be appealed?
6. What does criminal law deal with?
7. What are the two categories of crimes?
8. What is decided in a criminal case?
9. What begins the process for bringing criminal cases to trial?
10. When can a person be arrested?
11. What two things happen after a person is arrested?
12. What happens during the arraignment?
13. What is a plea?
14. What happens following the arraignment?
15. What can happen if a defendant is found guilty of committing a crime?
16. Can a case be appealed directly to the Supreme Court?
17. What are due process protections?
18. What does the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment do?
19. What does the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment do?



## Civil and Criminal Law

Courts in the United States settle two kinds of disputes or conflicts: **civil** and **criminal**. **Civil law** deals with conflicts between two or more parties. These two parties are called the **plaintiff** and the **defendant**.

In a **civil case**, a **plaintiff** files a *complaint* with the court to recover damages or receive *compensation* from the **defendant**. Compensation can be in the form of money to compensate for an injury or it can be an order to stop harmful behavior. Civil cases can be heard by a judge or jury and can be appealed to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

**Criminal law** deals with illegal acts called crimes. Two categories of crimes include misdemeanors and felonies. A **misdemeanor** is a crime such as minor theft or simple assault that does not cause major injury. A misdemeanor usually results in no more than a year in jail or fines that do not exceed \$2,500. A **felony**, such as arson or murder, is a more serious crime that can result in more than a year in jail or the death penalty. In a criminal case, the court decides whether a defendant is guilty or not guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony.

The process for bringing a criminal case to trial begins with a crime. The person accused of the crime may be arrested if the police have **probable cause**. Probable cause means that the police have a reasonable belief that the person committed the crime. After being arrested, the person is **committed to jail** or **released on bail**. Bail is a sum of money that is given to the court. It allows an accused person to be temporarily released from jail with the promise that he will return later for trial. The next step in the process is the **arraignment**. During the arraignment, **probable cause** is reviewed, an attorney may be appointed for the defendant, and a **plea** is entered. A plea is when the defendant states his guilt or innocence. Following the arraignment a court date is set and a trial is held. If the defendant is found guilty of committing the crime, the case may be appealed to the Court of Appeals. In some cases, an appeal can be made directly to the Supreme Court.

### Due Process

The Constitution of the United States guarantees that the government cannot take away a citizen's basic rights without **due process of law**. Due process of law is the constitutional protection for American citizens against unfair governmental actions and laws. When a person is treated unfairly by the government, including the courts, he is said to have been deprived of or denied *due process*.

The right to due process of the law is outlined in both the **Fifth Amendment** and the **Fourteenth Amendment** to the Constitution of the United States. While the Fifth Amendment prohibits the *national government* from acting unfairly, the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits the *state and local government* from acting unfairly.

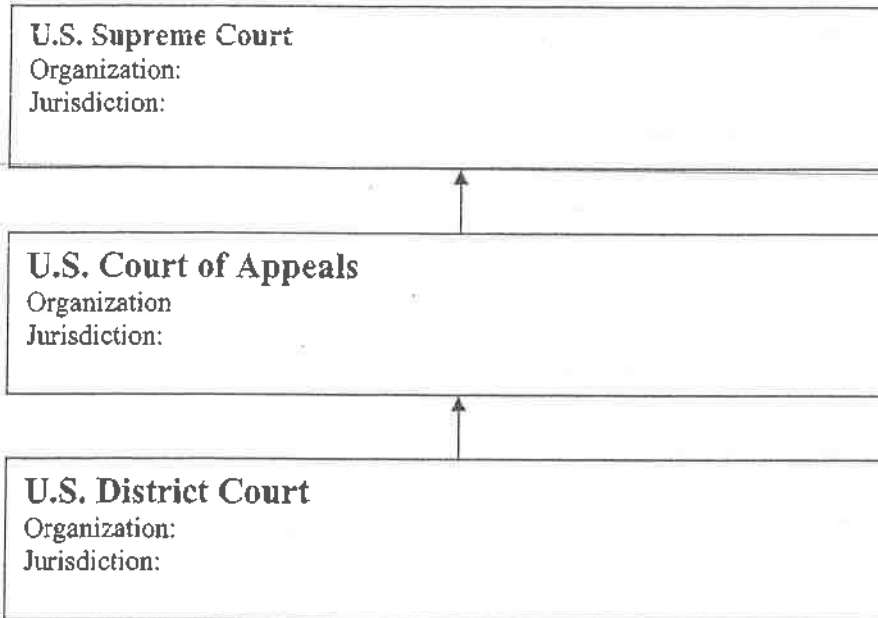
In addition, the **Supreme Court** has extended the **due process** clauses to protect all of the guarantees found in the Bill of Rights.

**Attachment G: Virginia Courts in Brief Study Guide** 1 E 3

1. The Judicial System of Virginia is made up of \_\_\_\_\_  
The jurisdiction of a court describes the type of cases it hears.
2. What is the jurisdiction of the General District Court?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the jurisdiction of the Virginia Circuit Court?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the jurisdiction of the Virginia Court of Appeals?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the jurisdiction of the Virginia Supreme Court?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the jurisdiction of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the role of the magistrate in the Virginia Judicial System?  
\_\_\_\_\_

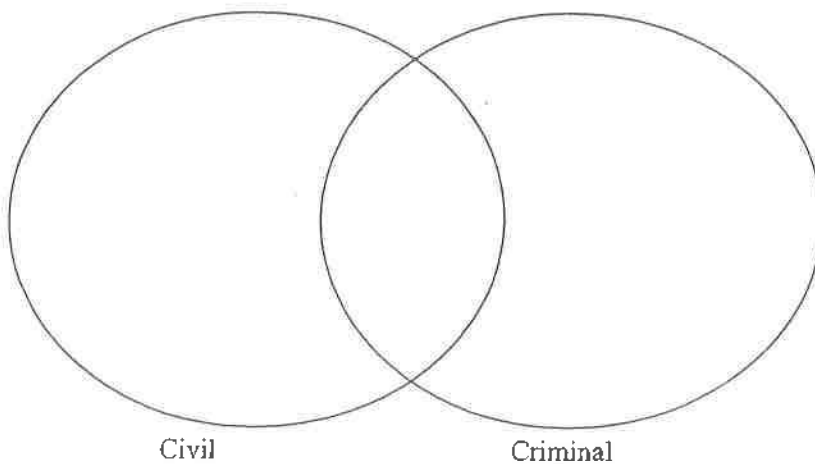
**Attachment X: Judicial Branch Review**

1. Complete the organizer below describing the structure of the federal judicial branch.



Fill in the blanks:

2. Judicial Review is \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Marbury v. Madison* established \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the supreme law of the land.
5. Compare and contrast civil and criminal cases in the Venn diagram below.

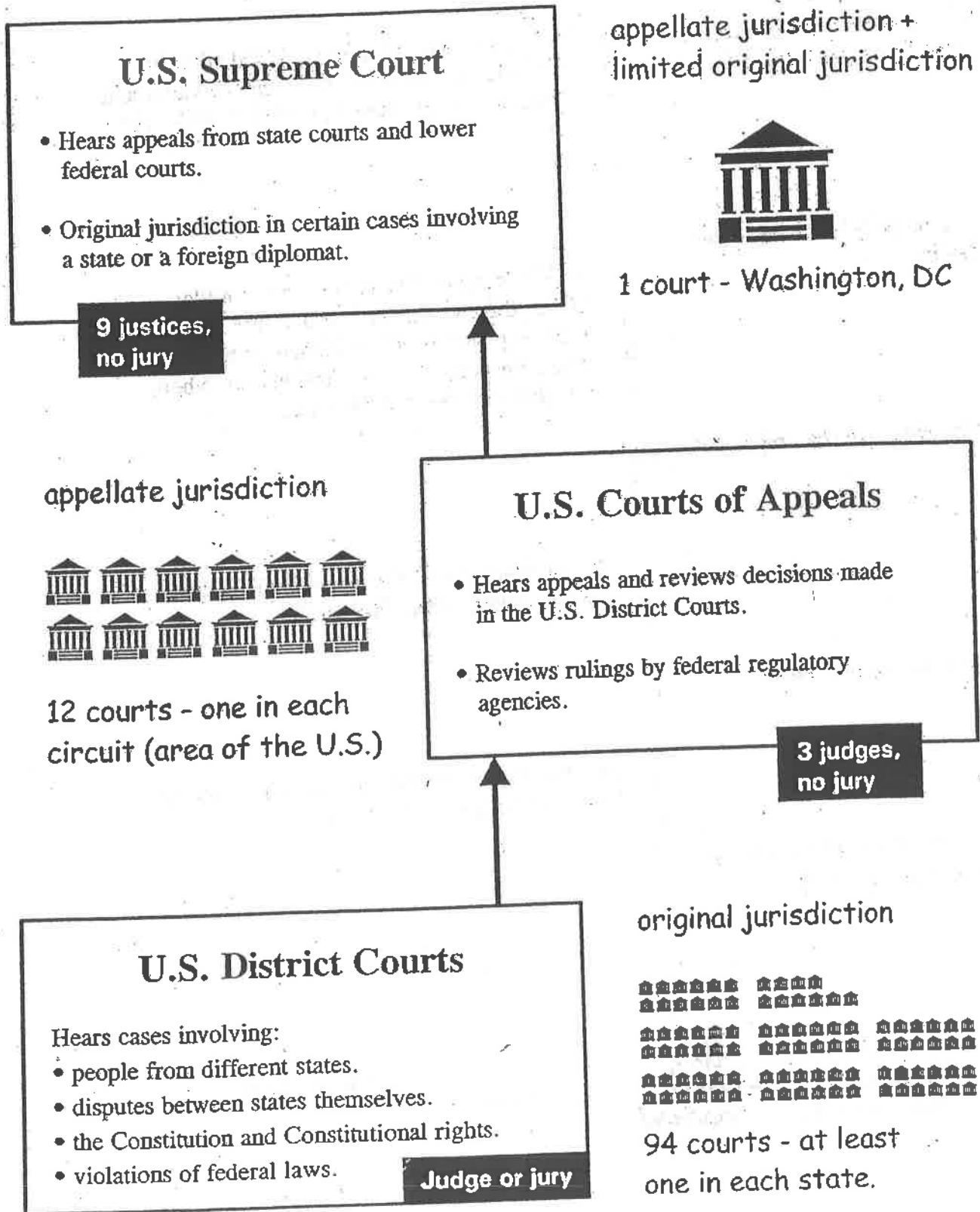


6. What is the role of the magistrate in the VA judicial system?

# The Federal Court System

Use this page as you and your teacher discuss and analyze the federal court system.

This chart shows the basic organization of the federal courts:



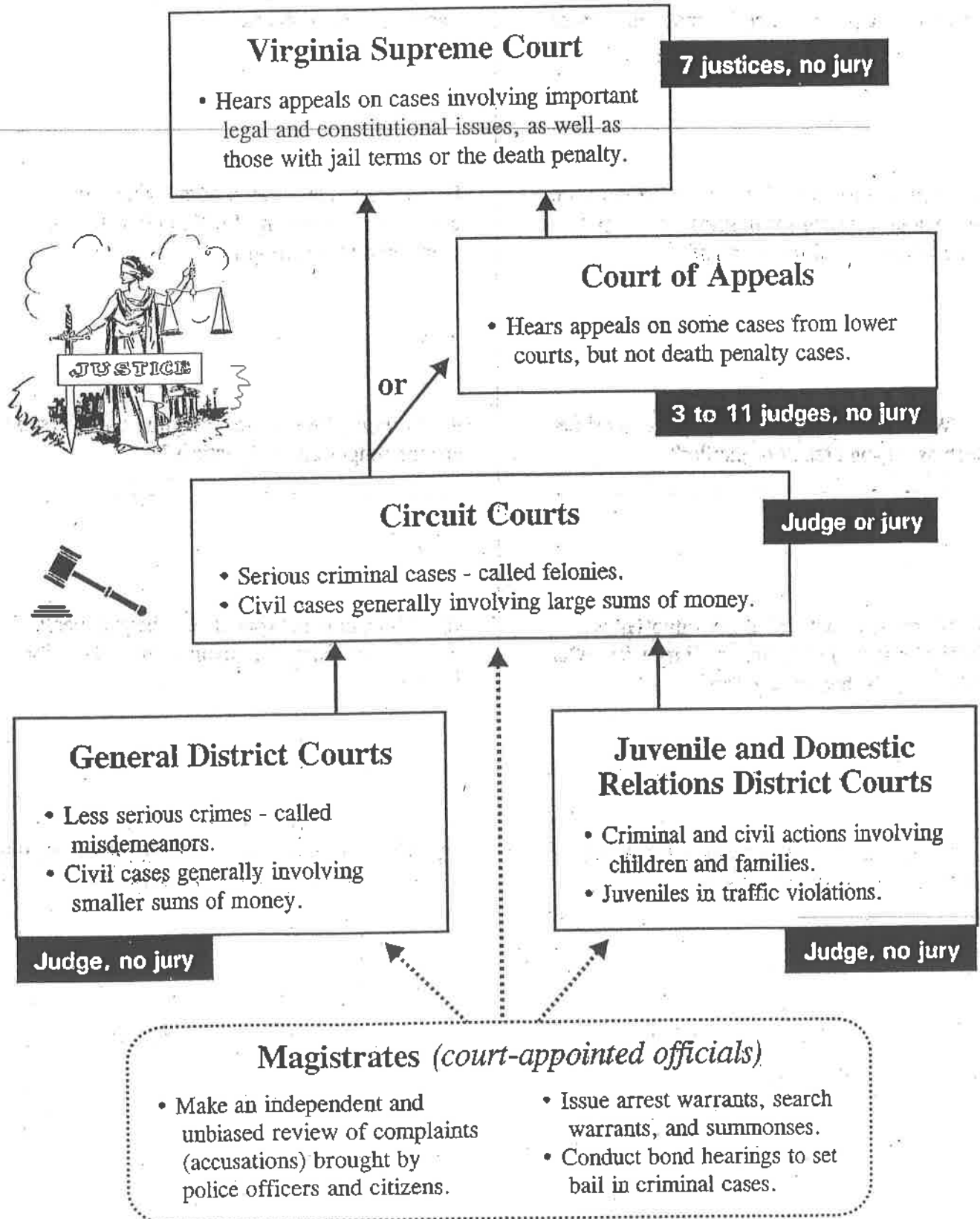
Use the chart "The Federal Court System" to help you answer these questions.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What is the highest court you can appeal your case to in the federal court system? | 7. Which court has original jurisdiction in a case involving a dispute between Maryland and Virginia over pollution in the Potomac River?  |
| 2. At which level of the federal court system do most cases begin?                    | 8. If a Virginia man convicted of murder claims that overcrowded prisons are "cruel and unusual punishment" prohibited by the 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, where would his lawyer start his case? |
| What do the arrows in the chart represent?  | 9. At what level of the federal court system are the judges called "justices"?   |
| Is there a federal court in your state?   | 10. Are there any cases in which the Supreme Court has "original jurisdiction"?  |
| What is the only level of the federal courts in which trials can be heard by a jury?  | 11. How many justices are there on the Supreme Court?  |
- Handwritten notes:*  
If you believe you did not get a fair trial at U.S. District Court level, what is next? **highest review**  
If you believe you did not get a fair trial at U.S. District Court level, what is next? **highest review**

# The Virginia Court System

Use this page as you and your teacher discuss and analyze the Virginia court system.

This chart shows the basic organization of the Virginia courts:



Use the chart "The Virginia Court System" to help you answer these questions.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the title of the court-appointed official who can issue an arrest warrant after examining a police officer's report on a crime? | 7. Which court does a 17 year old driver go to if she is arrested while speeding to a girl's basketball team practice? |
| 2. Which court hears less serious cases, such as an adult arrested for trespassing in a park after it was closed for the night?            | 8. In which court can a homeowner sue a construction company for \$200,000 for bad work on a remodeling job?           |
| 3. Which court holds trials for serious crimes, such as a gang assault or murder?  | 9. At which level of the Virginia court system are the judges called "justices"?                                       |
| 4. If you hear that a civil case involving a medical operation is going to a jury trial, what court must be hearing the case?              | 10. The Court of Appeals can hear appeals from lower courts, but cannot take what kind of cases?                       |
| 5. Which court would a 14 year old student go to after being caught shoplifting?   | 11. What kind of cases can be appealed all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia?                                   |
| 6. Which two courts can hear appeals on cases from the Circuit Courts?   |  |


## JUDICIAL REVIEW (10b)



The power of judicial review is an important check on the legislative and executive branches of government. (Remember "checks and balances"?) The supreme courts of the United States and Virginia determine the \_\_\_\_\_ of laws and \_\_\_\_\_ of government. This power is called "judicial review".

- Which court case established the principle of judicial review at the national level?
- What document is the supreme law of the land?
- To what documents must state laws conform?

### WOULD THAT BE "CRIMINAL" OR "CIVIL"? (10c) (Courts resolve two kinds of legal conflicts—civil and criminal.)

Criminal law	Civil law
In a criminal case, a court determines whether a person accused of breaking the law is guilty or not guilty of a _____ or a _____.	In a civil case, a court settles a disagreement between _____ to recover damages or receive compensation.
<b>Criminal procedure in felony cases</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A person accused of a crime may be arrested if the police have _____.</li> <li>▪ The accused may be committed to _____ or released on _____.</li> <li>▪ The case proceeds to an _____ where probable cause is reviewed, an attorney may be appointed for the defendant, and a _____ is entered.</li> <li>▪ A court date is set and a _____.</li> <li>▪ A guilty verdict may be appealed</li> </ul>	<b>Procedure for civil cases</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The _____ files a complaint to recover damages or receive compensation.</li> <li>▪ Case can be heard by judge or a _____.</li> <li>▪ Case can be _____.</li> </ul> 

The Supreme Court has extended the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, based upon the due process clause.

## TERMS TO KNOW (10d)

### Due process of law:

The constitutional protection against unfair governmental actions and laws

### Due process protections:

- 5th Amendment—Prohibits the \_\_\_\_\_ government from acting in an unfair manner
- 14th Amendment—Prohibits \_\_\_\_\_ governments from acting in an unfair manner

The Supreme Court has extended the guarantees of the \_\_\_\_\_, based upon the due process clause.

### Find some examples of—

- Misdemeanor
- Felony

Felonies are more serious crimes than misdemeanors and are sometimes dependent upon dollar amounts—i.e. theft over \$200 in a retail store might be classified as a felony while theft under \$200 might be a misdemeanor.

## NOT SO DIFFICULT TRIVIA

1. Which of the United States courts could have a jury?
2. Which of the United States courts is the highest court in the "land"?
3. What does appellate mean?
4. After a trial in the United States Court system regarding a federal concern, where would be your first opportunity for an appeal?
5. You and your neighbor have a dispute over an unsightly fence between your yards. Would this be a criminal or a civil case? In what court might this be disputed?



# The SOL HOME CONNECTION

CIVICS & ECONOMICS



## What's in Chapter 3?

*Explore the political process at*

*the local, state, and national levels of government!*

Your child will learn about political parties, campaigning, the role of the Electoral College, and voter participation. He or she will also gain insights into ways individuals can participate in civic life.

## Enhancing the Learning

*Our government is in action all around us!* Watch the national and local news or read the newspaper with your child. Discuss the activities of political parties in current events. Compare and contrast the two major political parties in the American political process. Point out any third party activity, if applicable. Discuss how the media plays an important role in the election process and how citizens can make informed choices during the political process.

## Dinner Discussions

*Tie what your child is learning in school to your home by engaging in conversation.*

Help make the learning more meaningful by emphasizing with your child how voting is a basic responsibility of citizenship.

- Brainstorm reasons, such as age, income, or education levels, why people may or may not vote.
- Explain that in order to vote, citizens must register. Share with your child the qualifications to register to vote in Virginia.
- Explain the process of how to register to vote. Visit the local registrar's office, Division of Motor Vehicles, or other designated site. Together, analyze the voter registration application.
- Share your Voter Registration card with your child. If you do not have a card, get one!





# Chapter 3 Essential Knowledge

2 OF 2

REPRODUCIBLE 40

## CE.4 a, b, c, d, e, f, g

### *Personal traits of good citizens*

- Trustworthiness and honesty
- Courtesy and respect for the rights of others
- Responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance
- Respect for the law • Patriotism
- Participation in the school and/or local community
- Participation in elections as an informed voter

### *Effective participation in civic life can include*

- Formulating questions
- Analyzing information from a variety of sources
- Expressing a position
- Devising and implementing a plan
- Practicing thoughtful decision making in personal, financial, and civic matters (e.g., voting, civic issues)

## CE.5 a

### *Functions of political parties*

- Recruiting and nominating candidates
- Educating the people about campaign issues
- Helping candidates win elections
- Monitoring actions of officeholders

## CE.5 b

### *Similarities between parties*

- Organize to win elections
- Influence public policies
- Reflect both liberal and conservative views on the political spectrum
- Define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the center of the political spectrum

### *Differences between parties*

- Stated in party platforms and reflected in campaigning

### *Third parties (e.g. Green Party, Constitution Party, Libertarian Party, etc.)*

- Introduce new ideas and/or press for a particular issue
- Often revolve around a political personality (e.g., Theodore Roosevelt)
- Often take votes away from the two major parties

## CE.5 c

### *Strategies for evaluating campaign speeches, literature, and ads for accuracy*

- Separating fact from opinion
- Detecting bias
- Evaluating sources
- Identifying propaganda

### *Mass media roles in elections*

- Identifying candidates
- Emphasizing selected issues
- Writing editorials, creating political cartoons, publishing op-ed pieces, posting to social media and blogs
- Broadcasting different points of view

## CE.5 d

### *Rising campaign costs*

- Require candidates to conduct extensive fund-raising activities

- Limit opportunities to run for public office
- Give an advantage to wealthy individuals who run for office
- Encourage the development of political action committees (PACs and Super-PACs)
- Give issue-oriented special-interest groups increased influence

### *Campaign finance reform*

- Rising campaign costs have led to efforts to reform campaign finance laws
- Limits have been placed on the amount individuals may contribute to political candidates and campaigns, however, individuals, businesses, and unions can donate unlimited amounts to PACs and Super PACs (*Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*)

## CE.5 e

### *Legislation and constitutional amendments*

- 15th Amendment • 19th Amendment • 23rd Amendment
- 24th Amendment • 26th Amendment
- Voting Rights Act of 1965

Only citizens who register may participate in primary and general elections.

### *Qualifications to register to vote in Virginia*

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of Virginia and precinct
- At least 18 years of age by day of general election

### *How to register to vote in Virginia*

- In person at the registrar's office
- By mail • Online

Voter registration is closed 22 days before elections.

### *Factors in predicting which citizens will vote*

- Education • Age • Income

### *Reasons why citizens fail to vote*

- Lack of interest (in candidates or issues) • Failure to register
- Belief that his or her vote does not count or will have no impact • No time or too busy

The percentage of voters who participate in presidential elections is usually greater than the percentage of voters who participate in state and local elections. Every vote is important. Students can participate in the democratic process by:

- Participating in campaigns
- Participating in classroom and online simulations

## CE.5 f

### *The Electoral College casts the official vote for president and vice president.*

The number of electors of each state is based on each state's congressional representation (the number of United States' senators plus the number of representatives in the House).

### *Electoral College Process*

- Each political party chooses its slate of electors
- After the popular vote, the electors cast their official votes
- Most states have a "winner-take-all" system that awards all electors to the winning presidential candidate
- Candidates need 270 electoral votes to win, which favors the two-party system

The winner-take-all system leads to the targeting of densely populated states for campaigning, although candidates must pay attention to less populated states and swing states whose electoral votes may make the difference in tight elections.

In most states, the party that wins the popular vote has its slate of electors cast the official vote for the president.





# The SOL HOME CONNECTION

CIVICS & ECONOMICS



## What's in Chapter 7?

### *Who Controls Our Government?*

This chapter explores how public policy is made at local, state, and national levels.

## Enhancing the Learning

*The media, individuals, interest groups, and international issues all influence public policy.*

Spend time with your child discussing current events and news stories that illustrate how public policy is influenced.

## Dinner Discussions

*Tie what your child is learning in school to your home!*

- As you watch TV together, point out biased advertisements and newscasts. Discuss how government officials use the media to communicate with the public, such as how the president addresses the nation in his/her State of the Union speech.
- Talk to your child about ways individuals can bring about change in the community. Discuss the influence of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss appropriate speech and behavior when using social media.
- Discuss issues in your state that are important to you as a family and as individuals. Brainstorm ways your family could participate in influencing public policy surrounding the selected issues.
- Share articles about recent international events and, together, draw connections as to how the events may influence local government.

## Essential Knowledge

### **CE.10 a**

*Ways the media play an important role in setting the public agenda*

- Focusing public attention on selected issues
- Offering a forum in which opposing viewpoints are communicated
- Holding government officials accountable to the public

*Government officials use the media to communicate with the public.*

*Strategies for evaluating media*

- Separating fact from opinion
- Detecting bias
- Evaluating sources
- Identifying propaganda

### **CE.10 b**

*Term to know*

- **lobbying:** Seeking to influence legislators to introduce or vote for or against a bill

*Individuals can influence public policy by:*

- Participating in politics (voting, campaigning, seeking office)
- Joining interest groups

*Individuals and interest groups influence public policy by:*

- Identifying issues
- Making political contributions
- Lobbying government officials
- Expressing opinions (e.g., through

lobbying, demonstrating, writing letters, e-mail, social media)

### **CE.10 c**

*International issues and events that would require policy decisions by local government officials could include the following:*

- Public health concerns in the event of a pandemic
- Public safety in the event of an act of terrorism
- Economic development policies in response to the emerging global economy
- Policies to protect the environment (e.g., wildlife protection)



## Political Processes in the United States: Political Parties

In the United States **political parties** play a major role in our government and give citizens an opportunity to actively participate in the political process. A political party is a group of people who have similar views and opinions on how the country should be governed. Let's investigate the functions of political parties in the U.S. and discuss the similarities and differences of our major political parties.

Political parties have a number of important functions or roles in the American political process. First of all political parties recruit candidates who they think best represent the party's platform. A platform is a statement of the party's beliefs and policies on important issues. They then nominate or select one candidate to run for elective office. After a candidate has been nominated, one of the most important functions of the political party is to help the candidate win the election. The party does this by educating the electorate, or qualified voters, about the campaign issues and by raising money to cover the cost of the campaign. Once individuals are elected to office, political parties monitor the actions of officeholders.

## Political Processes in the United States: Political Parties

(continued)

In the United States, our political process is characterized by a **two-party system**. This means that we have two major political parties. These two major political parties are the Democratic Party founded in 1830 and the Republican Party founded in 1856. The differences between these two parties are stated in their platforms and in their campaigning styles. In general the Democratic Party is seen as more liberal. Liberals tend to favor more federal government involvement in solving social problems. The Republican Party is generally seen as more conservative. This means they tend to favor less federal government intervention in the lives of citizens.

Although the two major political parties are different, they also have a number of similarities. First, both parties must organize to win elections. This organization involves setting up national and state committees to plan and carry out party programs. Both parties also work to influence public policies. A policy is a plan or course of action for handling an issue or problem. In addition they tend to reflect liberal and conservative views. Both parties realize that in order to win elections they must hold more moderate views and appeal to the political center. Radical or extreme views tend to cause voters to steer away from a political party and its candidates.

Although the U.S. has two major political parties, there are also a number of **third parties**. Third parties rarely win elections, but they do play an important role in public politics. Third parties often revolve around a political personality. For example, in 1912, Theodore Roosevelt organized a third party called the *Progressive Party* when he was denied the Republican presidential nomination. Although Roosevelt lost the election, he did manage to take votes from the Republican candidate. As a result the Democratic candidate, Woodrow Wilson, won the presidency.

Third parties also introduce new ideas or focus on particular issues. The Green Party is an example of a third party that nominates and supports candidates all across the United States. Its platform focuses on issues such as ecological wisdom, social justice, and nonviolence.

## Political Parties - CE.5a and b

Answer in complete sentences by restating subject and verb in answer. Do not copy question.

1. What do political parties do in the United States?
2. What are the six important functions or roles of political parties?
3. What is the political process characterized by? Explain what this means.
4. Where are the differences between the parties stated?
5. What are the similarities between the political parties?
6. Who or what do third parties revolve around? Give an example.
7. What do third parties focus on or introduce? Give an example.
8. *Making Inferences:* Why do third parties rarely win elections?

On the back, make a bubble map on the functions of political parties.



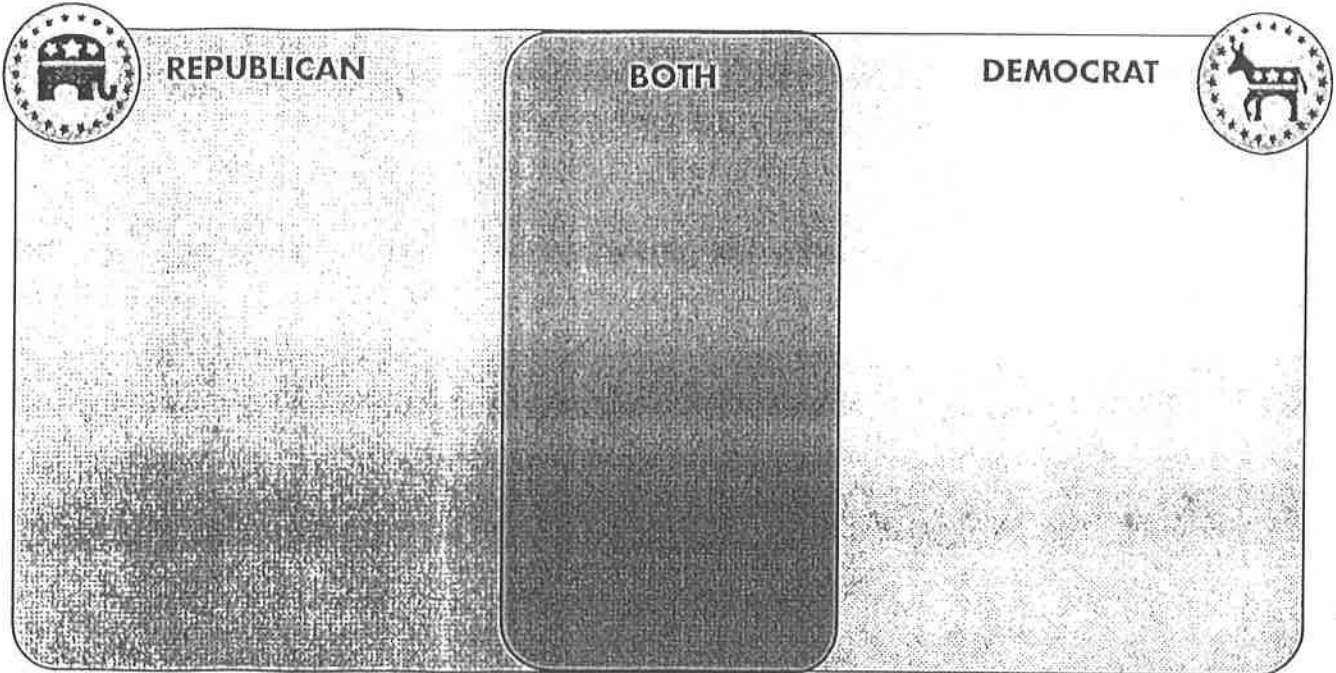
# Elephants and Donkeys

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read each box below. Color statements describing the Republican Party **RED**.

Color statements describing the Democratic Party **BLUE**. Color statements describing both parties **PURPLE**.

Then write the statement numbers in the correct place on the Venn Diagram.



1. Organize to win elections	7. Many in this party believe global warming should be controlled with laws to reduce carbon emissions.
2. Platforms tend to be more conservative	8. Influence public policies
3. Reflect both liberal and conservative views	9. Platforms tend to be more liberal
4. Generally believe government needs to keep a watchful eye on businesses and provide for people who are sick and poor	10. Generally believe government should not regulate businesses. Less government is better government.
5. Quote from this party: <i>"Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives."</i> —Ronald Reagan	11. Quote from this party: <i>"If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."</i> —John F. Kennedy
6. Define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the political center	12. Many in this party believe global warming is natural and do not support laws to reduce carbon emissions.



## Political Processes in the United States: Voting

All U.S. citizens become eligible to vote at age 18. Voting is an important right and a basic responsibility of citizenship. Before a citizen can vote, however, he or she must be qualified to **register** or enroll to vote. In Virginia these qualifications include; being a citizen of the United States; being a resident of Virginia; being a resident of a precinct, or local voting district; and being 18 years of age by the day of the general election.

In Virginia there are several ways to register to vote. Citizens meeting all of the qualifications may register in person at the registrar's office, the Division of Motor Vehicles, or at other sites designated by the state. Qualified voters may also register by mail application. Voter registration is closed 21 days before an election.

Only registered voters can participate in **primary** and **general** elections. In primary elections, voters choose the candidates who will run later in a general election. In general elections voters choose their leaders and decide on important issues. In each type of election, every vote is important.

The number of citizens who register and vote in elections is determined by many different factors. One factor has to do with the issues being decided in an election. More citizens tend to vote in elections when the issues are important to them, their families, and their communities. It has also been found that more people participate in presidential elections than in state and local elections.

Factors such as education, income, and age tend to predict which citizens will vote. Studies show that people with higher levels of education are more likely to register and vote in elections. People with higher incomes and older individuals are also more likely to get involved in the political process. Two common reasons why many citizens fail to vote are a lack of interest and failure to register.

# Can I Vote?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** *Decide if each person can or cannot vote in Virginia. Explain your rationale in each box.*

I'm Jeff.  
I am 16 years old  
and live in Norfolk,  
Virginia with my parents.  
I just got my Driver's  
License. I don't have  
much money, so  
I don't own a  
car yet.

*Can Jeff vote? Why or why not?*

*Can Alicia vote? Why or why not?*

I'm Alicia. I am 25 years old.  
I just moved to Virginia from  
Colorado. I've been looking for a  
new place to live but have not  
found a home yet.

I'm Carla. I immigrated to Virginia  
to find a good job when I was 33. I studied and  
worked hard, and I am proud to say that I now  
own my home! I recently raised my right hand and  
was sworn in as a new U.S. citizen.

*Can Carla vote? Why or why not?*

*Can Miguel vote? Why or why not?*

I'm Miguel.  
For the past 20 years I have  
worked near my home at my  
family's restaurant. I get so busy!  
My wife reminded me to register  
to vote but the election is two  
weeks away!

I'm Sam and I  
turned 18 in June. I learned about  
my right to vote in my Civics class.  
That's why the day after  
my birthday, I went online to register.

*Can Sam vote? Why or why not?*

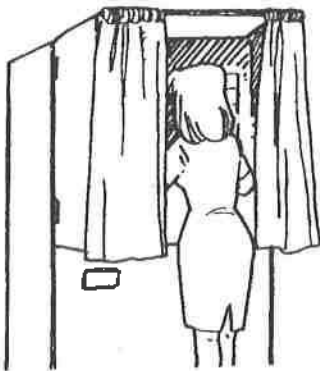
## Voting CE.5e

*Directions:* Answer in complete sentences by restating subject and verb from question. Do not copy question!

1. What is an important right and responsibility of citizenship?
  2. What does a citizen have to do before he or she can vote?
  3. What are the qualifications to vote in Virginia?
  4. How can citizens register to vote in Virginia?
  5. When is voter registration closed?
  6. Who can vote in primary and general elections?
  7. Why do more people vote in presidential elections than in local or state elections?
  8. What are the factors that predict which citizens will vote?
  9. Explain how each of these predictors affect which citizens will vote.
  10. What are two reasons why many citizens fail to vote?
- 
-



# The Importance of Voting



Voting is a precious right that all citizens who meet certain qualifications have. Voting is also a privilege that citizens should not take lightly. Many people even consider voting a duty.

The requirements for voting are basically the same throughout the country. Voters must be at least 18 years old and United States citizens. They must live in the state, county, and precinct (voting district) in which they wish to vote. Usually they must also satisfy a residency requirement of a set number of days. This requirement prevents people from voting in one county or state and then traveling to another and voting a

second time. People who are imprisoned or on probation for committing a felony (a serious crime) are not allowed to vote.

Even when people satisfy every requirement above, they can only vote if they are registered. Those who wish to vote for the first time must register at their local city hall, their county courthouse, or another location set up for registration. Cities and counties are divided into a number of precincts. Voters are given a registration card that shows the number of the precinct in which they live. Voters can only vote in their assigned precinct.

People who will be away from home at the time of an election can still vote. Upon their request, they are sent absentee ballots, which they mark and return to the Supervisor of Elections.

1. List three qualifications a person must meet in order to vote.

---

---

---

2. What do absentee ballots allow people to do?

---

---

3. Explain two reasons why it is important for people to vote.

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---

---

4. In some nations, citizens are fined for failing to vote in an election. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

---

---

# 5



## Understanding Civics

### Voter Turnout

#### READING A TABLE

The table below gives information about the percentage of eligible voters who actually voted between 1960 and 1996. Study the table. Then answer the questions that follow.

**Voter Turnout, 1960-1996**

Year	Percentage of Voters That Voted For		Year	Percentage of Voters That Voted For	
	President	U.S. Representatives		President	U.S. Representatives
1960	62.8	58.5	1980	52.6	47.4
1962	*	45.4	1982	*	38.0
1964	61.9	57.8	1984	53.1	47.7
1966	*	45.4	1986	*	33.4
1968	60.9	55.1	1988	50.1	44.7
1970	*	43.5	1990	*	33.0
1972	55.2	50.7	1992	55.2	50.8
1974	*	35.9	1994	*	36.0
1976	53.5	48.9	1996	48.8	41.6
1978	*	34.9			

Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, Committee for the Study of the American Electorate  
 \*No presidential elections in these years.

1. In which year was the percentage of voters casting ballots for President the highest? The lowest? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In which year was the percentage of voters casting ballots for United States representatives the highest? The lowest? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did a larger percentage of people vote for President in 1976 or in 1996? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In 1992, what percentage of voters cast ballots for President? For United States representatives? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens to the percentage of voters casting ballots for United States representatives in nonpresidential election years? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In which year did 60.9 percent of the voters cast ballots for President? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Use the information in the table to make a generalization about voter turnout in national elections. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Directions: Read over the following descriptions. Then answer the questions that follow.

1. Megan O'Hara is 16 years old. Can she vote? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Rich Henderson is going to be out of town during Election Day. Can he vote? How?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Nadia Rozinsky was not born in the United States. Can she vote? How?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Darryl Kim is a naturalized citizen. Can he vote? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Sarah Nordquist has not registered. Can she vote? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Henry Dobbler is not registered as a Republican party or a Democratic party member. Can he vote in an open primary? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Jennifer Rudkin wants to help in her neighbor's campaign for mayor, but she is 13 years old. Can she do it? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Ryan Santorini wants to propose a new law about limiting property taxes. Can he do it? How?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Corey Jones and a group of her friends are interested in starting a new political party. Can they do it? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Jordan Schneider is 22 years old, a citizen of the United States since birth, and has been a resident of the state of California for five years. He wants to be a congressman. Can he be a candidate? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  
 ☆ VIDEO QUIZ ☆  
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Directions: Read the following statements, and circle whether they are true or false.

1. A citizen is anyone who lives in the United States.

True      False

2. An alien can become a citizen through a process called naturalization

True      False

3. The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution lowered the voting age to 18 years old.

True      False

4. To be a senator, a person needs to be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the United States for nine years, and a resident of the state from which he or she was elected.

True      False

5. It is not necessary to register in order to vote.

True      False

Don't Do

6. If you are not old enough to vote, you can still participate in the political process, for example, by expressing your opinion to your elected officials or by campaigning for candidates.

True      False

7. The two major U.S. political parties are the Whigs and the Copperheads.

True      False

8. Women and African American men have always had the vote in the United States.

True      False

9. An open primary is a way citizens can propose legislation.

True      False

10. The Electoral College consists of the people who actually vote to elect the president of the United States.

True      False

## Political Processes in the United States: The Role of the Media

The **mass media** in the United States plays an important role in our political process. Mass media are forms of communication that are created to reach large audiences. They include TV, radio, newspapers, national magazines, books, and the Internet. Some of the roles of mass media include identifying candidates, emphasizing selected issues, writing editorials, creating political cartoons, broadcasting different points of view, and publishing op-ed pieces. Op-ed pieces are pieces of writing that express the opinions of columnists and guest writers. They appear on the page *opposite* the editorial page in our newspapers, thus the name op-ed.

This increase in mass media makes it necessary for voters to evaluate the information presented in political campaigns so that they can make reasoned or informed choices among the candidates and the issues. Some strategies for evaluating the accuracy of campaign speeches, literature, and advertisements include separating fact from opinion, evaluating the reliability of information sources, detecting bias, and identifying propaganda.

To evaluate the **reliability** of an information source, voters must ask themselves a number of questions. For example, voters must decide if the source is trustworthy and informed about the information it is sharing. They must also find out where the source got its information and if the information is accurate and current or up to date.

**Bias** is the distorting of an event or observation due to a person's opinion or feelings about the event or observation. In politics, mass media information may be biased to support or not support a particular candidate or issue. In order to detect bias, voters need to determine what the author's or speaker's political position is, who is paying for the message, what sources were used, and whether different viewpoints were shared.

**Propaganda** is the spreading of information for the purpose of influencing the opinions of others. Mass media enables propaganda to be spread quickly to huge audiences. Because of this, citizens need to be able to recognize it in its many forms.

## Political Processes in the United States: The Role of the Media (continued)

Some propaganda techniques include:

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- **Glittering generalities:** This technique uses vague ideas, words, or phrases that everyone agrees with. Words like *freedom*, *liberty*, and *justice* are used to stir emotions without specifically stating the position of a candidate.
- **Testimonials:** This technique occurs when a well-known person such as an athlete, movie star, or political leader publicly endorses or supports a candidate.
- **Transfer:** This technique occurs when a candidate connects himself to a respected person or group. For example, a candidate may make reference to serving in the military or having access to people in positions of power.
- **Plain folks:** This technique is designed to convince voters that the candidate is a regular person with the same problems and day-to-day activities that they have. The candidate may talk about attending church and being an active member of the local PTA.
- **Bandwagon:** This technique uses “peer pressure” to appeal to a person’s desire to do what everyone else is doing. Propagandists realize that the more people you get on your side, the more others will want to join you.

## The Role of the Media – CE.5c

**Directions** – Write out your answers in complete sentences, including the subject and verb from the question. **DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER!**

1. What are the roles of the media in the political process?
2. How is an op-ed page different from the editorial page?\*
3. Why is it necessary for voters to evaluate political campaigns?
4. What are some strategies for evaluating campaigns?
5. Why would you need to evaluate the accuracy of campaign literature?\*
6. How do voters evaluate the reliability of an information source?
7. What is bias?
8. How can mass media information be biased?\*
9. What is propaganda?
10. Are bias and propaganda negative, positive or both?\*
11. Explain the role mass media plays in your life.\*



## Political Processes in the United States: Funding Political Campaigns

Running for political office in the United States is very expensive. This high cost of getting elected has changed how candidates campaign for public office. Candidates must conduct extensive fund-raising activities. In the 2004 presidential campaigns, candidates raised over \$900 million dollars. Future presidential campaigns are estimated to exceed \$1 billion.

This high cost has also limited who can run for public office. Many Americans will not have the opportunity to run for public office because they can not afford the high costs. This gives an advantage to wealthy individuals.

Rising campaign costs also give issue-oriented special interest groups increased influence. An interest group is an organization of people who have a common interest. Interest groups include such groups as trade unions, business associations, and consumer groups who work to influence government policies and decisions. Some interest groups are called **issue-oriented**. This means that they focus on a specific issue or problem. Some examples of issue-oriented interest groups are the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the American Cancer Society.

The development of political action committees or PACs has also been encouraged by rising campaign costs. Because federal law prohibits interest groups from contributing directly to political candidates, these groups contribute to PACs who use the money to support candidates. In the 2004 presidential elections, PACs contributed over \$3 million dollars.

As campaign costs continue to rise, efforts have been made to reform campaign finance laws. In 2002, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. This act places limits on corporation and individual contributions to political candidates and campaigns. It also requires that candidates release the source of any contribution of \$200 or more.



## The Political Process - Funding Political Campaigns CE.5d

Answer in complete sentences by restating subject and verb from question.

1. *Making Predictions* - Why do you think political campaigns are so expensive?
2. What has the high cost of running for political office changed?
3. Who has an advantage when running for political office? Explain why.
4. *Making Predictions* - What might be some problems in our communities and country if only wealthy individuals hold public offices?
5. How have interest groups gained influence in the political process?
6. What are some interest groups called? Explain what this means.
7. What is another result of rising campaign costs?
8. What efforts have been made to reform campaign finance laws?
9. *Forming Opinions* - Is reforming campaign laws something we should be concerned about? Explain why or why not?



# Special Interest Groups and Lobbyists

If you visit Washington, D.C., or any state capital, it is likely that you will see the lobbies of legislatures buzzing with well-dressed men and women talking to senators and representatives. Many of these people are lobbyists. A lobbyist is a person who tries to get legislators to vote a certain way. Many lobbyists work for special interest groups, organizations made up of people who share common goals and attempt to get legislation passed in their favor.

Lobbyists represent many different groups. Businesses and civic organizations use lobbyists to voice their views. So do doctors, teachers, lawyers, and people in many other professions. Groups for or against important issues, such as gun control, women's rights, or the preservation of natural resources, may also use lobbyists.

Lobbyists provide special interest groups with a way to bring their views to the attention of lawmakers. To ensure that lobbyists use proper conduct to influence legislators, the Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 was created. This act requires lobbyists who function at the federal level to register with the government and report their activities.

Special interest groups may use a number of methods to win the votes of lawmakers. These methods include hiring lobbyists to meet with senators and representatives, writing letters, and making contributions to the campaign funds of legislators they wish to influence.

1. What is the goal of lobbyists?

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2. Explain why people who represent special interest groups received the name *lobbyist*.

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3. What are three methods special interest groups might use to win favorable votes from legislators?

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4. What did the Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 require lobbyists to do?

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5. Why might lobbyists argue that further regulation of their activities could infringe on their constitutional right to free speech as well as their right to petition the government to solve problems?

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# CHALLENGE AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY

## ELECTING LEADERS



### Interpreting Election Results

The U.S. presidential election of 2000 was a cliffhanger. It took approximately five weeks to learn the official outcome of the election. To add to the drama, the winner of the popular vote was not the person who became president. Review the material below and answer the questions to determine whether you could have predicted the outcome.

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 2000

Candidate	Popular Vote	Percentage of the Popular Vote
George W. Bush (Republican Party)	50,456,002	47.87%
Albert Gore Jr. (Democratic Party)	50,999,897	48.38%
All Others	3,949,201	3.75%

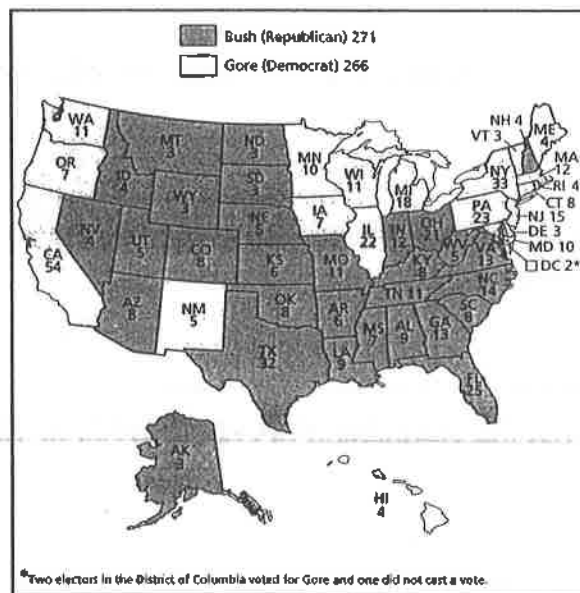
1. On the basis of the popular vote alone, who do you think would have won the election?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Look at the map below. It shows how the states cast their electoral votes in the 2000 election. Add up the number of electoral votes for the two main candidates.

Bush \_\_\_\_\_ Gore \_\_\_\_\_

3. On the basis of this vote, who became president? \_\_\_\_\_



**Explanation:** George Bush became president even though he received fewer popular votes than Albert Gore Jr. Essentially, a state's electors are equal to its total number of senators and representatives. If a candidate wins the popular vote in larger states with more electors, then his or her total number of electoral votes may exceed that of the opponent.

## Political Processes in the United States: The Electoral College

We have learned that the United States is a representative democracy. This means that the people of the United States rule or govern themselves by electing representatives to carry out the responsibilities of the government. One of the responsibilities we give these representatives is to vote for us on important issues. One of these important issues includes deciding who will become president. Let's investigate the **Electoral College** process and how it is used to select the president and vice president of the United States.

When registered voters cast their ballots in a presidential election, their individual votes become a part of the popular vote. The popular vote does not directly elect the president, however. Instead we are actually voting for a group of people called **electors**. The slate or list of electors from each state is chosen by the political parties before a presidential election. The number of electors from each state is based on the state's Congressional representation. Virginia has thirteen electors because it has two Senators and eleven Representatives in Congress.

After all of the popular votes are counted in a state, the candidate who receives the most popular votes "wins" the state. This means that the electors who represent the party of the winning candidate meet to cast *all* of the state's electoral votes. In Virginia, this would mean that all 13 electoral votes would be cast for the candidate who won the popular vote in Virginia.

Every ten years the government takes a census to determine the population of each state. This number determines the number of Representatives each state can have in Congress as well as the number of electoral votes it will have in the next presidential election. Today there are 538 electors in the Electoral College. States with large populations like California and Texas also have large groups of electors and thus more electoral votes. A candidate needs a majority of the electoral votes from the fifty states and the District of Columbia to win the presidency. Because of this, and the **winner-take-all system** of the Electoral College, candidates tend to focus on large states for campaigning. In close elections, however, candidates must even focus on smaller states whose electoral votes might make the difference between winning and losing.

This requirement for a majority vote to win in the Electoral College favors a two-party system. Because there are currently 538 electors, the votes of a majority of them -- 270 -- are required for a candidate to be elected president. It is easier for a candidate to win these 270 votes when fewer major candidates are running. Three major political parties and three major candidates would split the number of electoral votes three ways and make the likelihood of accumulating 270 less likely.



# The Electoral College

Directions: Analyze the graphic organizer. Answer the questions below.



*If this do not print clearly don't worry about it.*

1. Each presidential election has two results. One is called the \_\_\_\_\_ vote, which is determined by the citizens of the United States. The other is called the \_\_\_\_\_ vote, which is determined by state representatives from the candidates' political parties.
2. The number of state electors is based on the state's Congressional representation, which is based on a state's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Most states have a \_\_\_\_\_ electoral system, which means the majority vote wins. Because of this system, candidates campaign heavily in highly populated states, since those states have a higher number of electoral votes. Candidates also must pay attention to smaller states because their electoral votes count too! Their votes might make the difference in a tight race!
4. There are a total of 438 state electors and a total of 100 state senators. That equals 538 members of the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the collection of votes to determine the president. The candidate who gets \_\_\_\_\_ electoral votes wins.

## ANALYZE!

1. Look at the Electoral College map on page 60. Name three states where you think expensive, targeted campaigning occurs. Why did you pick these states?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. California typically votes Democratic. Texas typically votes Republican. Virginia is a swing state, since it can vote either way. In which of these three states do you think a candidate would spend the most time campaigning? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you think the U.S. should continue to use the Electoral College or should tallying only the popular vote elect a president? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



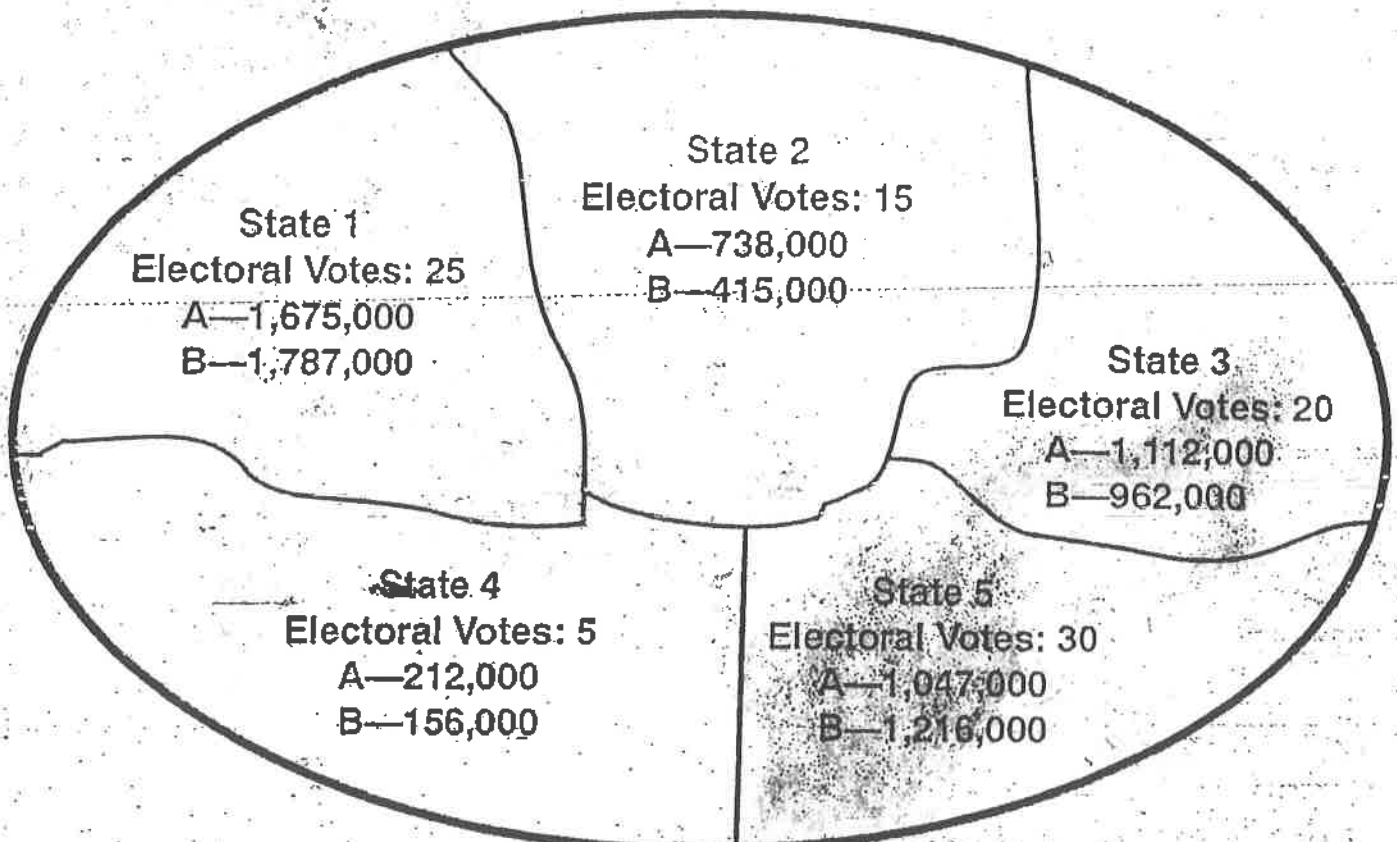
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Popular Vote

The actual number of votes cast for Presidential candidates on election day is called the popular vote. It is possible, though, that the candidate with the most popular votes may not become President. Do the following exercise to learn why.

This map shows five imaginary states and their value in electoral votes. Also shown are the popular votes cast in each state for Candidates A and B. Use this information to answer the questions.



1. How many popular votes in all were cast for Candidate A? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many popular votes in all were cast for Candidate B? \_\_\_\_\_

All of a state's electoral votes are awarded to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in that state.

3. Which states did Candidate A win? \_\_\_\_\_

How many electoral votes are they worth? \_\_\_\_\_

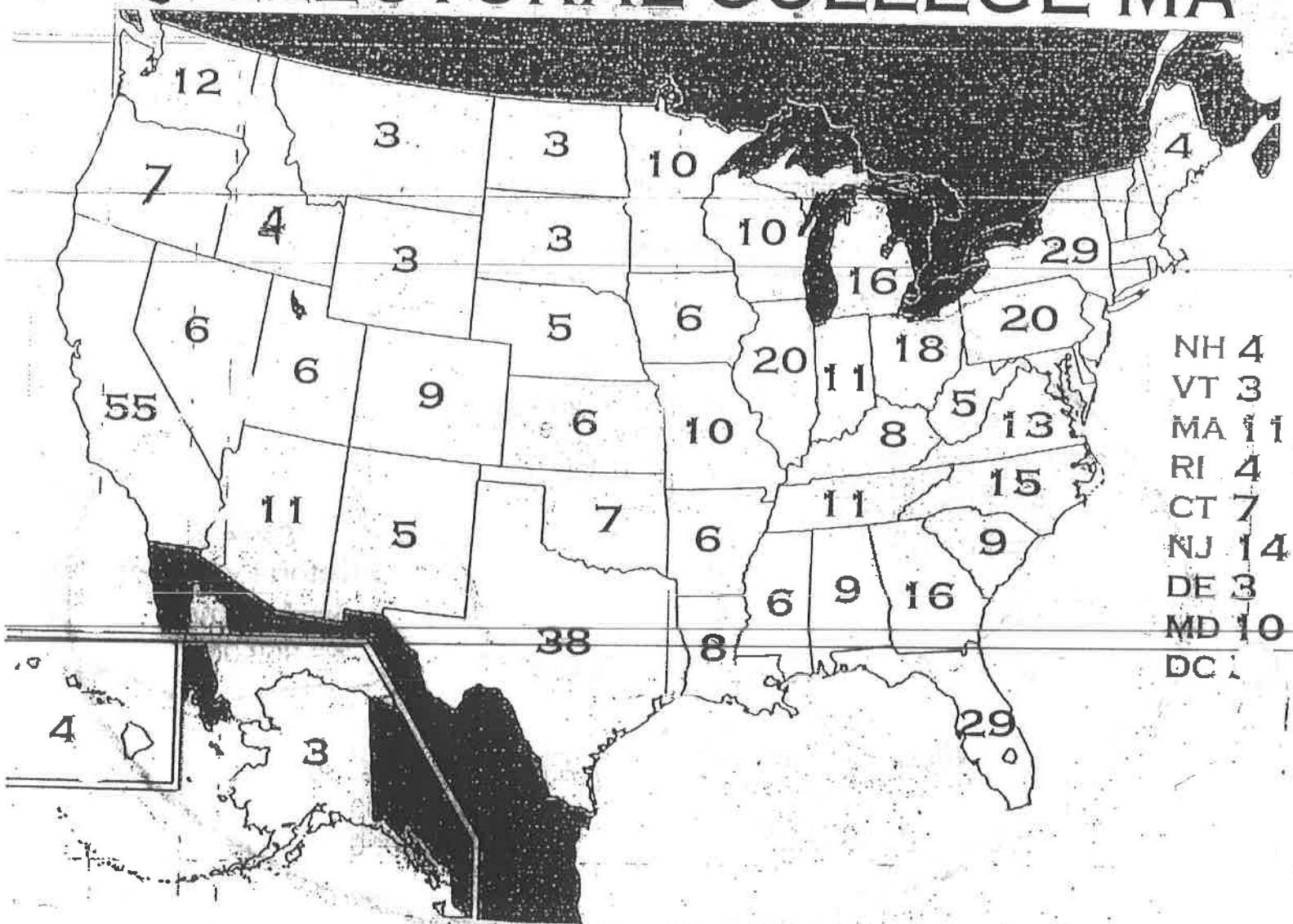
4. Which states did Candidate B win? \_\_\_\_\_

How many electoral votes are they worth? \_\_\_\_\_

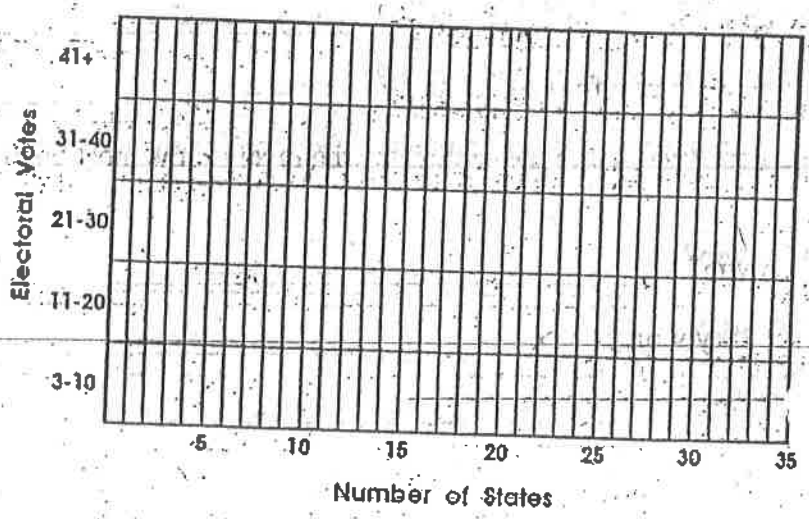
5. Who won the election? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

# 2016 ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP



A. Use the information on the map to complete the graph.



B. On the map, color the states with: 41 or more electoral votes, red; 31-40, blue; 21-30, green; 11-20, yellow; 3-10, leave uncolored.

# How We Elect Our President

Some Americans might be surprised to learn that they do not directly elect the President and the Vice President. Instead, they vote for electors, who in turn cast their votes for the candidates.

When the Constitution was written in 1787, its framers were reluctant to entrust the election of the President directly to the people or to Congress. They feared that most individuals were not knowledgeable enough about candidates' qualifications and that allowing Congress to vote would give the legislature too much control over the President. Therefore, they provided a way for the President to be selected by an Electoral College. (As used here, the word *college* refers to a group of people.)

In the Electoral College, each state has as many electors as it has members in Congress. For example, if a state has 17 representatives and 2 senators, it is entitled to 19 electoral votes. In most states, the electors who vote belong to the party that has won the majority of the popular vote. The electors are chosen by their respective parties before the presidential election. They are expected, and in some states required, to cast their votes for the candidate nominated by their party. This candidate has been previously determined in party elections called primaries and has been confirmed at the party's convention held the summer before the general election. The electors cast their votes more than a month after the November elections.

Some people think the Electoral College should be discontinued. They think the "winner-take-all" policy of most states in the Electoral College is unfair. It allows a candidate who carries a particular state to get all that state's electoral votes, regardless of how many popular votes the other candidates receive. These individuals feel the popular vote more accurately reflects the people's choice for President and should therefore determine who is elected.

Supporters of the Electoral College maintain that its discontinuance could lead to a number of third, or minor, parties seeking the presidency. Having a large number of parties could result in a candidate winning without receiving a majority of the popular vote.

1. What determines the number of electors a state has in the Electoral College?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you think the Electoral College should be abolished? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. A national census is taken every ten years to determine the number of people living in each state. How would a significant change in a state's population affect its number of Electoral College votes for President?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER  
7

**CRITICAL THINKING SKILL ACTIVITY**



**ELECTING A PRESIDENT**

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this chart to answer the questions below.

*If you cannot read  
this don't worry  
about it.*

<b>Electoral College Process</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>Tuesday after first Monday in November</b> Voters cast ballots for all electors representing a particular party in each state
<b>December</b>	<b>Monday after second Wednesday in December</b> Electors of party winning popular vote in each state cast ballots for President and Vice President
<b>January</b>	<b>January 6</b> Ballots cast by electors are counted by Congress
	<b>January 20</b> Candidate receiving majority of electoral vote becomes President

1. For whom do registered voters cast their ballots? When does this occur? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how much time goes by between the popular vote and the vote by the electoral college? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is the electoral college called a "winner-take-all" system? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When does the elected candidate become President? \_\_\_\_\_
5. State one reason why you think the Electoral College should be either retained or abolished. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Political parties play a key role in government and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.

### FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES (5a)

- Recruiting and nominating \_\_\_\_\_
- Educating the \_\_\_\_\_ about campaign issues
- Helping candidates win \_\_\_\_\_
- Monitoring actions of \_\_\_\_\_



### AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS—TWO-PARTY SYSTEM (5b)

(Third parties rarely win elections, but they play an important role in public politics.)

Similarities between parties	Differences between parties	Third parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organize to win _____</li> <li>▪ Influence public policies</li> <li>▪ Reflect both _____ and _____ views</li> <li>▪ Define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the _____</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stated in a party's <b>platform</b> and reflected in _____</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduce new ideas and/or press for a particular issue</li> <li>▪ Often revolve around a political personality (e.g., _____)</li> </ul>

### VOTERS EVALUATING CHOICES (5c)

What are some of the strategies that citizens can use for evaluating campaign speeches, literature, and advertisements for accuracy?

- Separating \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_
- Detecting \_\_\_\_\_ (This means to find out and think about the subject in a more objective manner.)
- Evaluating sources (Who wrote it? Who said it? Is he/she credible?)
- Identifying \_\_\_\_\_ (meaning to spread information to promote or hurt a cause or a group)

What are the two major political parties in the United States of America?

## Demonstrating Personal Character Traits that Facilitate Thoughtful and Effective Participation in Civic Life (4 a-g)

### Personal traits of good citizens

- Trustworthiness and \_\_\_\_\_
- Courtesy and respect for the \_\_\_\_\_
- Responsibility, accountability, and \_\_\_\_\_
- Respect for the \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Participation in the \_\_\_\_\_ and/or local community
- Participation in elections as an informed \_\_\_\_\_



Write a paragraph about the personal traits of a good citizen, but use terms and examples "in your own words" that explain the meaning of the vocabulary in the box above. (Use additional paper if needed.)

### Effective participation in civic life can include:

- formulating \_\_\_\_\_
- analyzing information from a variety of \_\_\_\_\_
- expressing a \_\_\_\_\_
- devising and implementing a \_\_\_\_\_
- practicing thoughtful \_\_\_\_\_ in personal, financial and civic matters (e.g. voting and civic issues.)

**Unless someone like  
you cares a whole  
awful lot, nothing is  
going to get better.  
It's not.  
~Dr. Seuss**

**I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I  
can do something. And I will  
not let what I cannot do  
interfere with what I can do.**

**~Edward Everett Hale**

Sometimes it may seem difficult to stand up for a position or to express a difference of opinion. Good citizens become informed citizens. They read and listen to different sides. They know the issues and reflect on what appears to be best for them and their family, as well as the community or nation as a whole. Good citizens know how to make good decisions and use their talents to become active in their schools and communities.

### "SHOW YOU KNOW MORE"

- Find out about Teddy Roosevelt's third party affiliation with the Progressive Party. How did it influence his political life? Write a minimum of four paragraphs to be shared either with a small group or the class.

### THE MEDIA AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS (5c)

What role does the mass media play in elections?

- Identifying \_\_\_\_\_
- Emphasizing selected issues
- Writing \_\_\_\_\_, creating \_\_\_\_\_, publishing \_\_\_\_\_
- Broadcasting \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW "RICH" DO YOU NEED TO BE TO RUN FOR OFFICE? (5d)

The high cost of getting elected has changed campaigning for public office.

Rising campaign costs

- Require candidates to conduct extensive \_\_\_\_\_
- Limit opportunities to run for public office
- Give an advantage to \_\_\_\_\_ individuals who run for office
- Encourage the development of \_\_\_\_\_ (PACs)
- Give issue-oriented \_\_\_\_\_ increased influence



Campaign finance reform

- Rising campaign costs have led to efforts to \_\_\_\_\_
- Limits have been placed on the amount individuals may contribute to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Be ready to report back to your class with the information.

- Find an op-ed piece, a political cartoon, or an editorial endorsing a candidate. Copy the article or cartoon with the candidate's name and bio to share with the class. Do further research to see if the newspaper consistently endorses one particular party over-time.
- Interview a local politician or political candidate. Ask the person that you chose about the pressure to raise money for his/her campaign, about the kinds of fund-raising activities he/she participated in, and about special interest groups who may have endorsed him/her.
- Do an Internet search to collect a minimum of three articles on campaign finance reform. Complete a summary sheet noting whether the articles are reported toward the national, state or local levels and the main issues from each article. Note if dollar amounts are mentioned as suggested limits to either the campaigns or the political candidates.

## VOTING (5e)

Voting is a basic responsibility of citizenship. With voter registration required before a citizen may vote, the number of citizens who register and vote is generally related to how important election issues are to citizens. Only citizens who register may participate in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ elections.

### VOTING IN VIRGINIA (5e)

#### Qualifications to register to vote in Virginia

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of Virginia and \_\_\_\_\_
- At least \_\_\_\_\_ years of age by day of \_\_\_\_\_

#### How to register in Virginia

- In person at the \_\_\_\_\_ office, at the \_\_\_\_\_, or at other designated sites
- By \_\_\_\_\_
- Voter registration is closed \_\_\_\_\_ days before elections.

#### Factors in predicting which citizens will vote

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Hint for Remembering:**  
These answers begin with the first three vowels (a, e, i). Generally MORE is better for voting—older, more educated and higher income citizens tend to vote more. Why do you think this might be?

Until 2010 citizens had 29 days before an election to register to vote. The General Assembly shortened this time by a week.

#### Reasons why citizens fail to vote

- Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
- Failure to \_\_\_\_\_

The percentage of voters who participate in presidential elections is usually greater than the percentage of voters who participate in state and local elections. Every vote is important.

### THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE PROCESS (5f)

- The Electoral College process is used to select the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.
- The slate of electors for each state is chosen by \_\_\_\_\_. Most states have a winner take all system.
  - The electors meet to vote for president and vice president.
  - The winner-take-all system leads to the targeting of densely populated states for campaigning, although candidates must pay attention to less populated states whose \_\_\_\_\_ votes may make the difference in tight elections.
- The number of electors of each state is based on the size of the state's \_\_\_\_\_ which is based on the state's population.
- The requirement for a majority vote to win in the Electoral College favors a \_\_\_\_\_.