

We the People

Unit 3

We have spent hours compiling these sites, and have tried to be very careful in screening for content just prior to releasing this information to students. However, websites frequently update content, so close supervision of young students is always necessary with this type of research. We have discussed this in class, and do monitor it closely here at school. We highly recommend parental supervision at home, as well. If an updated website should contain inappropriate content, please contact the teacher immediately.

1. How did the Framers use separation of powers and checks and balances to limit the powers of government?

http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_sepp.html

Three branches are created in the Constitution. The Legislative, composed of the House and Senate, is set up in [Article 1](#). The Executive, composed of the President, Vice-President, and the Departments, is set up in [Article 2](#). The Judicial, composed of the federal courts and the Supreme Court, is set up in [Article 3](#).

http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_cnb.html

What are Checks and Balances?

2. Give examples of checks and balances at work today.

<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=11817&c=206>

Patriot Act

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/thepresidentandcabinet/a/presveto.htm>

Presidential veto

3. Give examples of the use of federalism to limit power.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124209100>

No child left behind legislation

<http://www.idahoreporter.com/2009/congress-considering-texting-while-driving-mandate/>

Ban texting & driving

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/state-and-federal-efforts-to-reduce-distracted-driving.aspx>

Banning texting & driving

http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_fedr.html

Federalism in the Constitution

http://www.constitution.org/cs_feder.htm

Unity and Federalism, documents and links about federalism and separation

4. Do you think the Congress should have the power to pass a bill over the president's veto? Why or why not? Give examples.

<http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/RS21750.pdf>
Presidential Veto and Congress

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0801767.html>
Presidential Vetoes, 1789-2003

5. Do you think the Supreme Court should have the power to declare a law passed by Congress unconstitutional? Why or why not?

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/judicialrev.htm>
What is the Power of Judicial Review?

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/the-power-of-judicial-review/>
Landmark cases with Judicial Review

<http://law.jrank.org/pages/7888/Judicial-Review.html>
Judicial review of gov't actions

<http://www.streetlaw.org/en/landmark.aspx>
Cases where judicial review was used

6. How is a law made? Explain the process from start to finish.

<http://kids.clerk.house.gov/grade-school/lesson.html?intID=17>
How laws are made

<http://kids.clerk.house.gov/grade-school/lesson.html?intID=34>
Committees

http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_law.html
How a bill becomes a law

http://www.votesmart.org/resource_govt101_02.php
Detailed explanation of a Bill becoming a Law

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0101183.html>
How a bill becomes a law

7. Is the Electoral College a fair process for electing the President of the United States? Why or why not?

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/government/theelectoralcollege.htm>
Describes the Electoral College and lists problematic elections.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/06/what-is-the-electoral-college_n_2078970.html

Explains Electoral College and possible problems in a Q & A format.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCjWPo70XZY>

Disney video explains the Electoral College

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/6-8/election/electoral.html>

<http://daveloveless.wordpress.com/2012/01/09/electoral-college-vs-direct-popular-elections/>

Pros and Cons of the Electoral College and alternatives to replace it

<http://history.house.gov/Institution/Electoral-College/Electoral-College/>

Procedure and problematic elections

<http://www.rappler.com/world/15511-fast-facts-the-us-electoral-college>

Pros and cons of the Electoral College