

**New Jersey Department of Education
2006 Social Studies Standards Implementation Guide (SIG)**

6.2. CIVICS: ALL STUDENTS WILL KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ROLES OF A CITIZEN IN THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

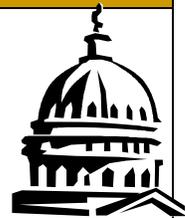
Grade 4

6.2.4.C. Constitution and American Democracy

1. Discuss how the Constitution describes how the United States government is organized and how it defines and limits the power of government.
4. Delineate the respective roles of the three branches of the federal and state governments.

Framework97 References

Identify Key Principles Embodied in the Constitution, pp. 32-33.
Identify Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens, pp. 34-35.



National History Standard

- I. What Is Government and What Should It Do?
- II. What Are the Basic Principles and Values of American Democracy?
- III. How Does the Government Embody the Principles of American Democracy?

Content Overview

Students study especially Articles I to III of the U.S. Constitution to learn how the government was set up at the beginning of the republic. What are the specific and most important powers of each branch: President, Congress and the Courts. What powers are jointly held by the President and Congress? What is the executive branch and who is included? How many staff members does each Congressman have? When does the Supreme Court term begin? How does the High Court announce its decisions? Can a citizen contact Congress or the White House? How is this done?

Essential Questions

What are the three branches of government and what powers does the Constitution give to each? What are examples of some services provided by local, state, and the federal governments that people need? What are shared powers? What powers were given specifically to the states? How does each branch of government make its decisions and implement them?

Teaching Resources

See The Founders Constitution for background for the teacher. It is a comprehensive resource with sources and review of every phrase. http://www.nccs.net/founders_constitution.html.

Assessment

Draw a picture of a tree with three branches. Label the branches with the Executive, Legislative and Judicial labels. Explain the responsibilities of each branch. Create a picture/symbol for the work of each branch.