EVERYTHING TO TEACH THE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

3-4 week complete unit

Cover this core content **with confidence** without getting lost in the weeds!

✓ Detailed 70-slide **lecture kit** with guided notes and assessment questions

✓ 4 Legislative Branch **podcast episodes** with guided notes

✓ Powers of Congress & Landmark Legislative **stations & review game activities**

✓ How a Bill Becomes Law **lecture, small group & crack the code stations game**

✓ Demographics of Congress **collaborative comparison activity**

✓ Capstone **research essay project** on whether Congress should grant DC statehood

✓ **100+ Reviews Cards** with 10+ game ideas

## ALL STUDENT MATERIALS COME IN PRINT & DIGITAL OPTIONS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH UNIT

TOPICS & STANDARDS *covered*

✓ **Structure and functions** of the legislative branch, including key differences between the House & Senate

✓ **Relationship with the other branches**, including how it checks and balances them and how they're different

✓ **Article I requirements & expressed powers** of both houses of Congress

✓ **Necessary & Proper Clause** and what implied powers Congress has acquired over time

✓ **Legislative process** or how bills become law

✓ **Landmark legislation acts** relating to the expressed powers of Congress

✓ **Current issues** like debate on granting DC statehood & current make-up of Congress

EACH ACTIVITY IS STAND-ALONE LETTING YOU PLUG & PLAY TO FIT YOUR CLASSROOM NEEDS
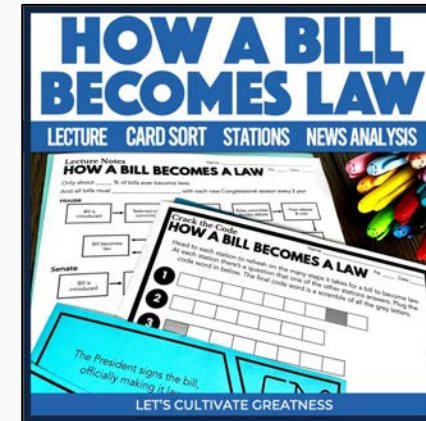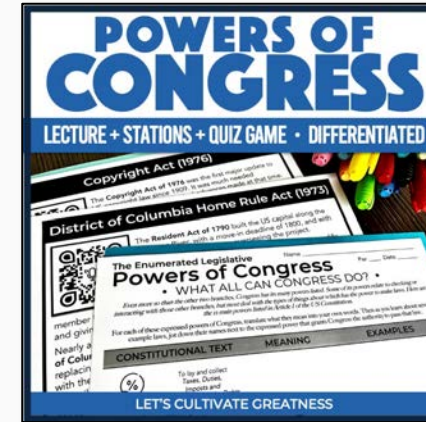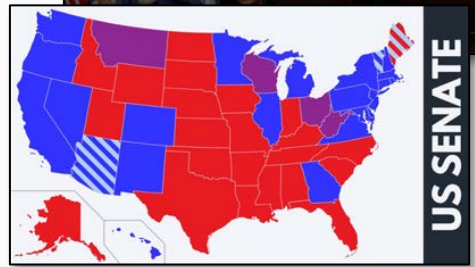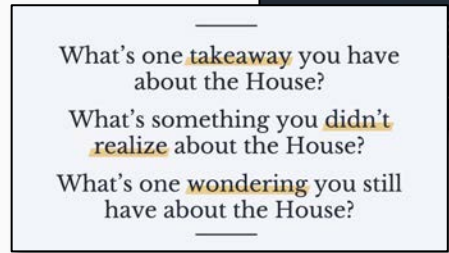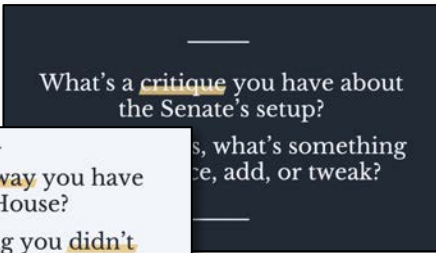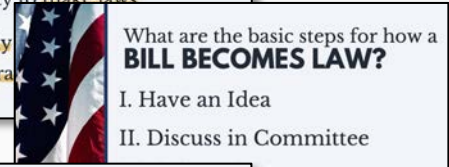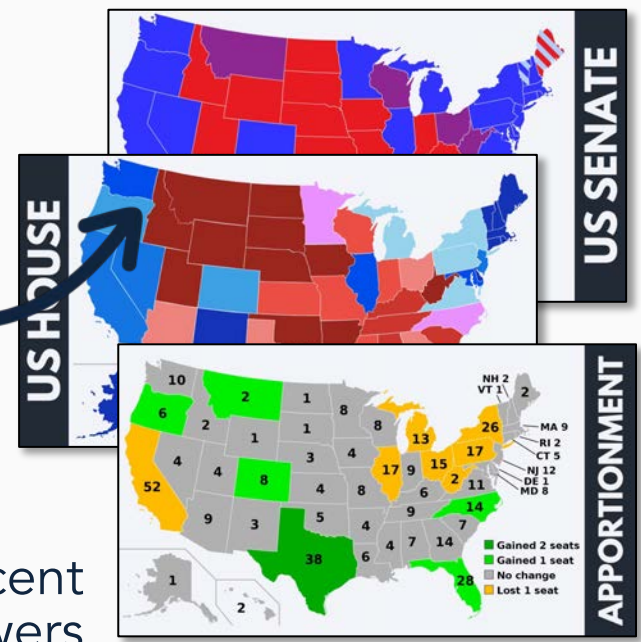
Basics of CONGRESS
LECTURE KIT

70-slide deck covering

✓ Bicameral system
✓ Founder's intentions
✓ Basics of Senate and House
✓ Current members
✓ Real-life examples
✓ Enumerated powers
✓ How a bill becomes a law

If you're new to Civics, this is a MUST-HAVE!

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
Basic Set-up
Functions & Powers
How a Bill Becomes a Law

TERMINOLOGY
Legislature — Body of people
Legisl...
Legisl...
Legisl...

BICAMERAL
Two — Chambers
(from Latin *camera*)

CONGRESS
US Capitol Building
Senate (House)   House (of Representatives)

What is a
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH?
An assembly of people with the authority to make laws
Formally...
Demogra...
people

What are the basic steps for how a
BILL BECOMES LAW?
I. Have an Idea
II. Discuss in Committee
... Vote
... Law

What are Congress's
EXPRESSED POWERS?
27 listed in the Constitution
Also called "enumerated" (numbered out) powers
Taxes and commerce, military, standardization, and federal lands

SENATORS
Represent the whole state
30 years old, 9-year citizen
6-y...
Sta...
eve...

There are over 1,200 positions the President appoints that require Senate approval.

What's a critique you have about the Senate's setup?
..., what's something ...e, add, or tweak?

What's one takeaway you have about the House?
What's something you didn't realize about the House?
What's one wondering you still have about the House?

US SENATE

TAKE A PEEK *inside*

Data maps displaying all sorts of interesting current-day operations

US SENATE

US HOUSE

APPORTIONMENT

Gained 2 seats
Gained 1 seat
No change
Lost 1 seat

Comparisons with international and past systems for greater contextual understanding

House of Lords members are Church of England bishops & those with titles of nobility.

Originally, each state's legislatures chose their US Senators.

Not the people.

Art. I, Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, *chosen by the Legislature thereof, ...*

Real-life recent examples of all powers and actions

Former Speaker Pelosi arguing for the nearly $2 trillion Covid-19 Relief Plan in 2021.

The Senate approved the US Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) 89-10 in 2018, replacing NAFTA.

Declare war, fund and maintain military, create military regulations & rules.

Presidents use their annual State of the Union Addresses to announce bills they want Congress to work on.

Easy-to-follow slides with extensive teacher script with all sorts of bonus info

I. IDEA & SUBMISSION
Someone comes up with an idea
Must have a sponsor, may have co-sponsors
Likely discussed within a caucus

II. COMMITTEE
All Congress members sit on committees
Scrutinize, debate, hear testimony on bill
Vast majority of bills die here

III. FLOOR DEBATE & VOTE
Debate rules are decided in the House
Senate bill essentially must have 3/5th to even get debated on the floor

IV. SIGN OR VETO
The President has the final say
An unsigned bill becomes law after 10 days or can be "pocket" vetoed
Vetoes require 2/3rds override

Don't just cover the **what**; elicit the *why*, *how* and *so, what*

© Let's Cultivate Greatness
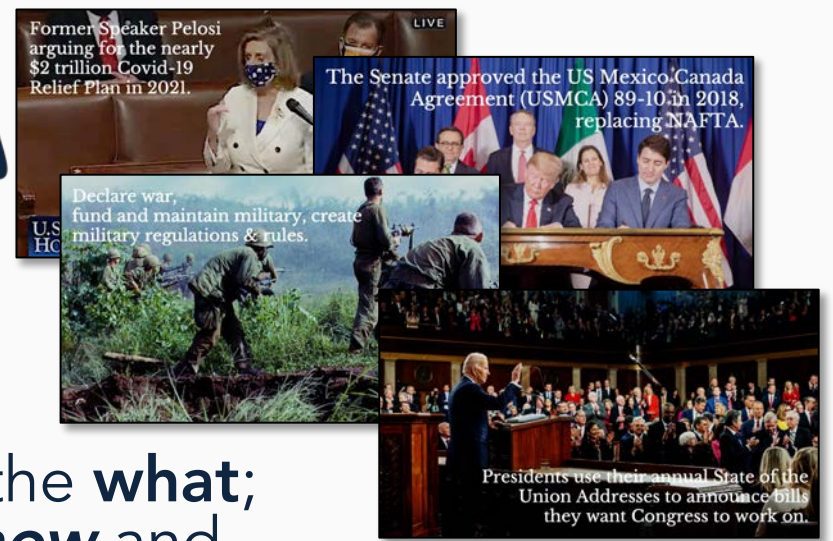
2 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH *podcast kit*

This is the **perfect alternative** to a lecture day, rapid-fire YouTube videos, and your dry textbook.

Perfect for adding **student choice** for how they learn the content!

TOPICS COVERED

✓ Legislative Branch overview, including its structure and how it operates

✓ How a Bill (Really) Becomes Law

✓ Differences of the House & Senate

✓ Gerrymandering

GUIDED NOTES WITH ANSWER KEYS
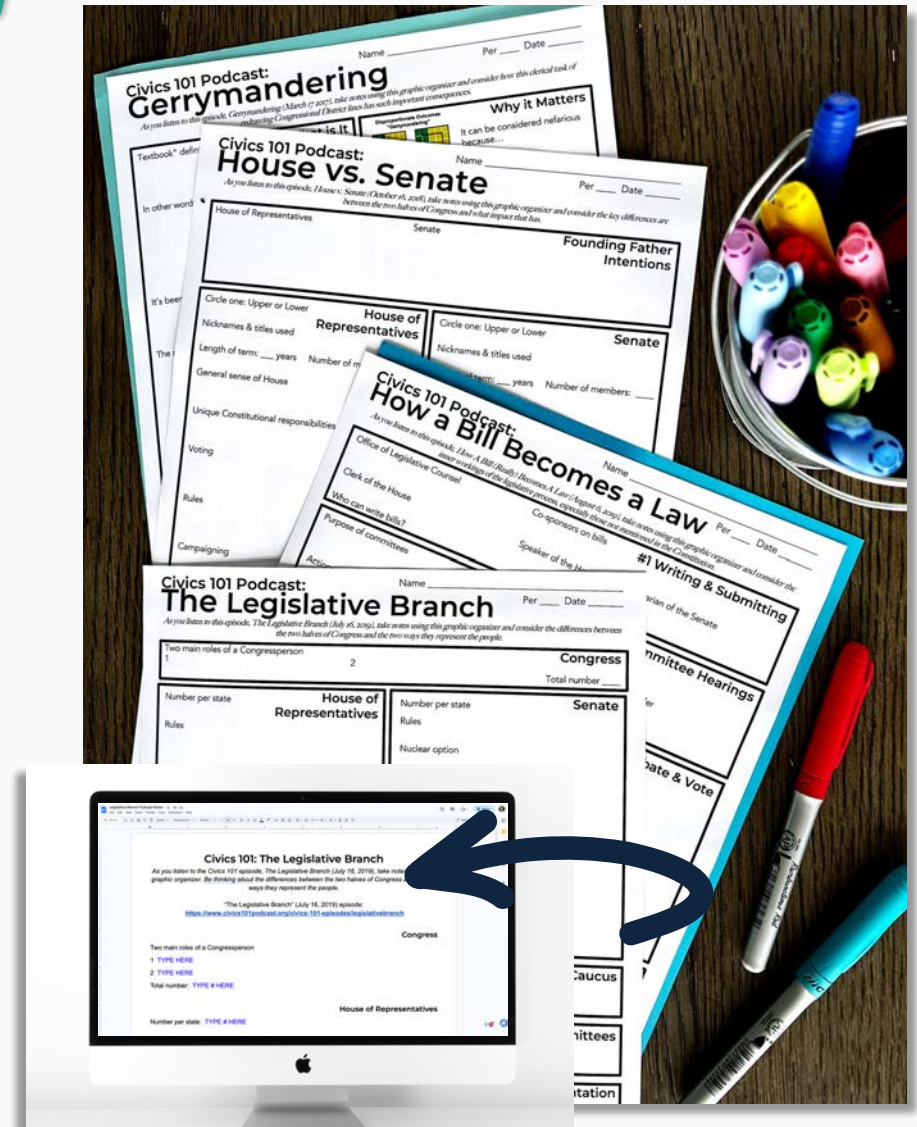
3 POWERS OF CONGRESS *stations*

Cover the **real-life workings of Congress** in just a few days.

Multiple **activity options and accommodations** are included to customize to your students!

3-PART ACTIVITY KIT INCLUDES

✓ **20-Slide Lecture Slide Deck:** to introduce the expressed powers listed in Art I (in both PowerPoint & Google Slides)

✓ **11-Station Landmark Legislation Activity:** for students to learn about each major expressed power, with note taking form

✓ **Station Accommodations:** Audio recordings via **QR codes** and **visual icons** to reinforce learning as students read about each major act of Congress

✓ **"Name That Law" Review Game:** recap the powers and landmark acts; comes in two formats—as task cards for small group and as a slide deck for whole-class competition
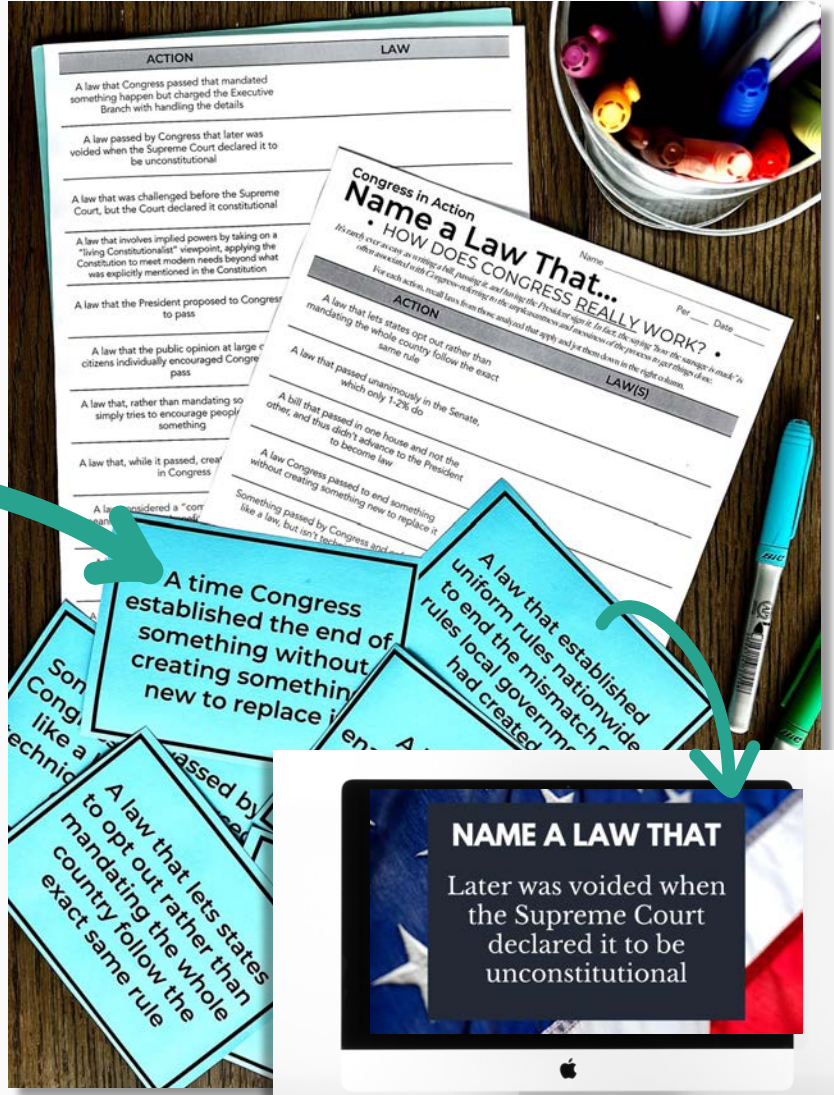
PRINT PDF & EDITABLE DIGITAL INCLUDED

TAKE A FURTHER PEEK *inside*
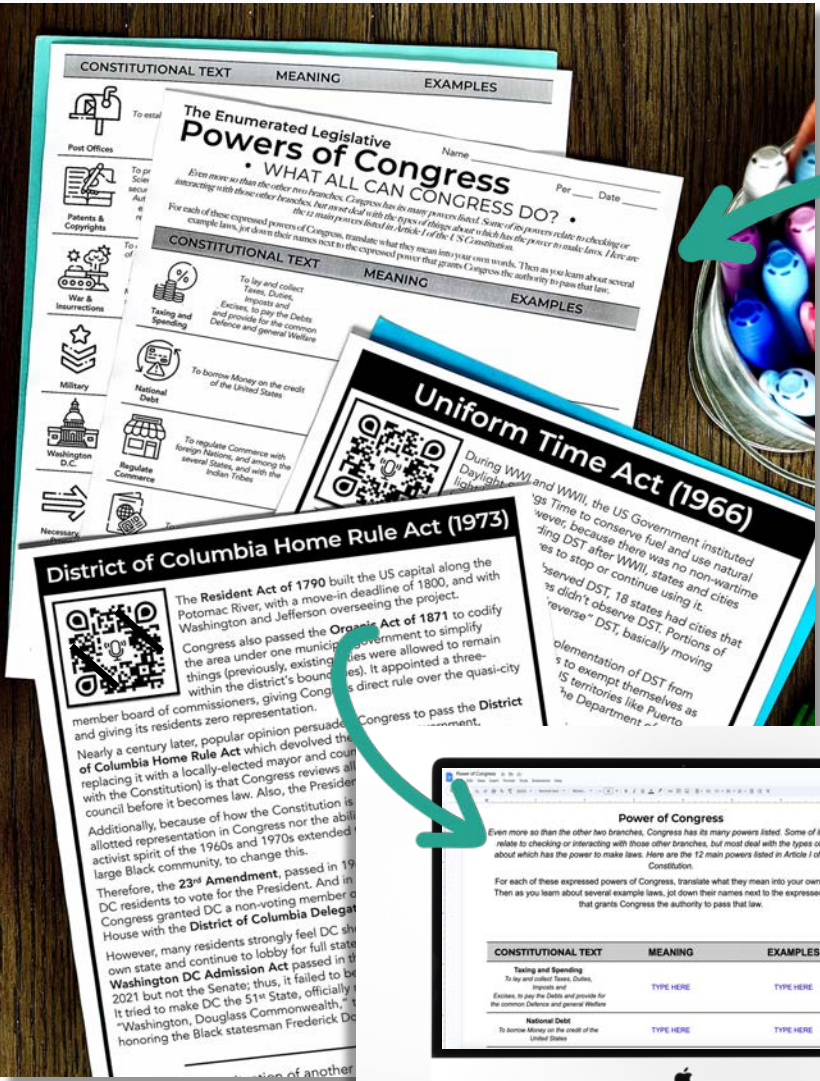
Stations to learn about all sorts of landmark legislative acts

Scavenger hunt, small-group quiz cards, or whole-class competitive game

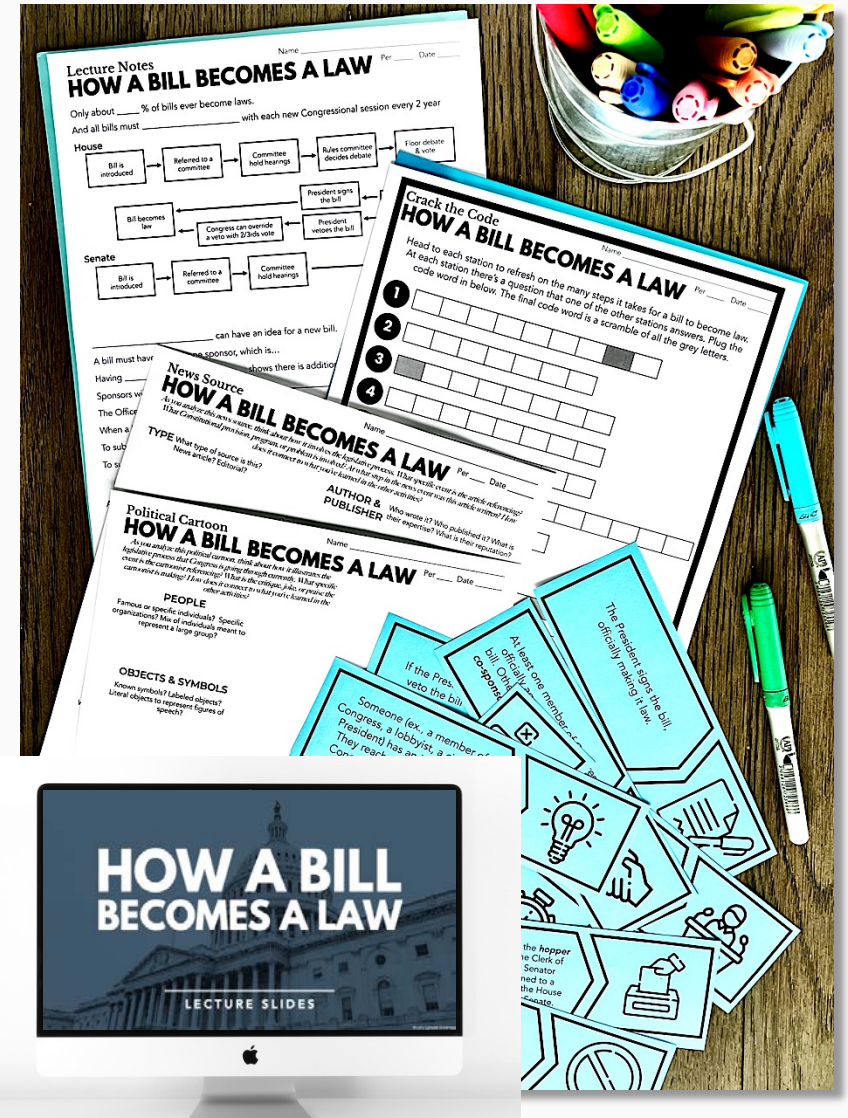**Multiple options for how to do each activity!**

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW
4-in-1 kit

Hit the basics of the legislative process, plus give an insider's angle on how things *really* get done in Congress with this kit.

Multiple **options and accommodations** are included to customize to your students!

4-PART ACTIVITY KIT INCLUDES

✓ **28-Slide Lecture Slide Deck:** to go step-by-step through the legislative process, complete with guided notes

✓ **21 Matching & Sorting Cards:** for students to practice their understanding with ELL supports included

✓ **"Crack the Code" Stations Activity:** for students to solidify their understanding of the legislative process

✓ **Political Cartoon & News Source Analysis:** bring in your own current events story about what Congress is up to to connect concepts with real-life
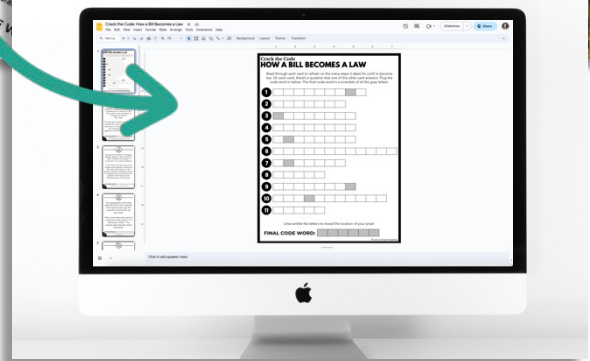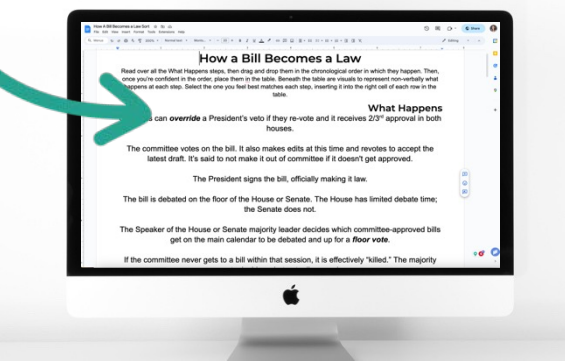
TAKE A FURTHER PEEK *inside*
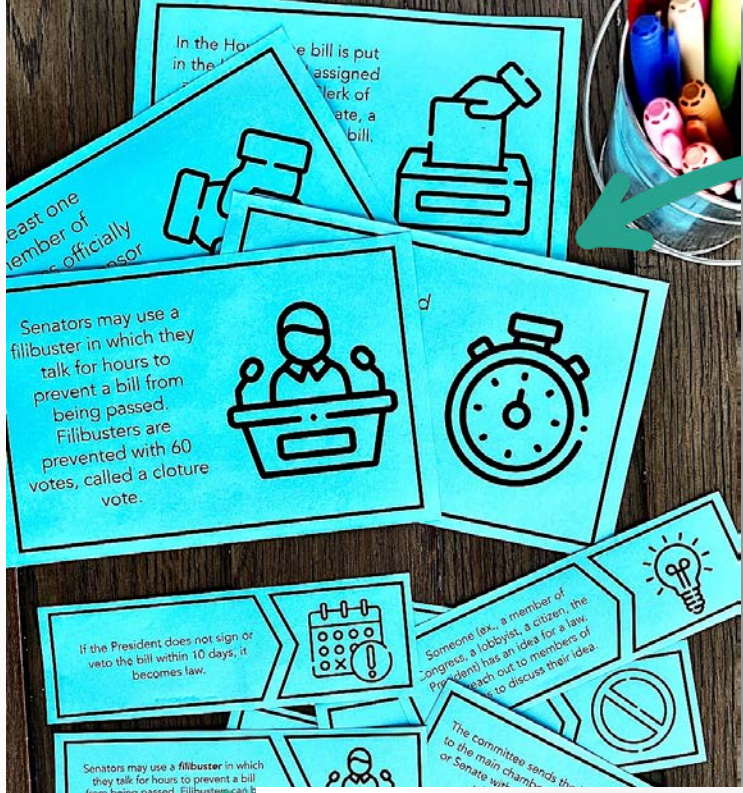
Whole-class human "timeline" or small-group card sort activity options

Stations with added fun "crack the code" challenge

**Multiple options for how to do each activity!**

5 CURRENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS *activities*

Students compare the **demographics of Congress** with the US and **research current members**, both leaders & local members.

2-PART KIT INCLUDES

✓ **Congress Demographic:** uncover various statics about the current Congress & compare them with the general US population

✓ **Current Members of Congress:** assign students their local member or leader in Congress to research and create a one-pager poster, then conduct a gallery walk to teach classmates about who currently elected to represent our wishes

✓ **Teacher Supports:** Step-by-step detailed lesson plans, helpful links, rubrics, and sample one-pager poster
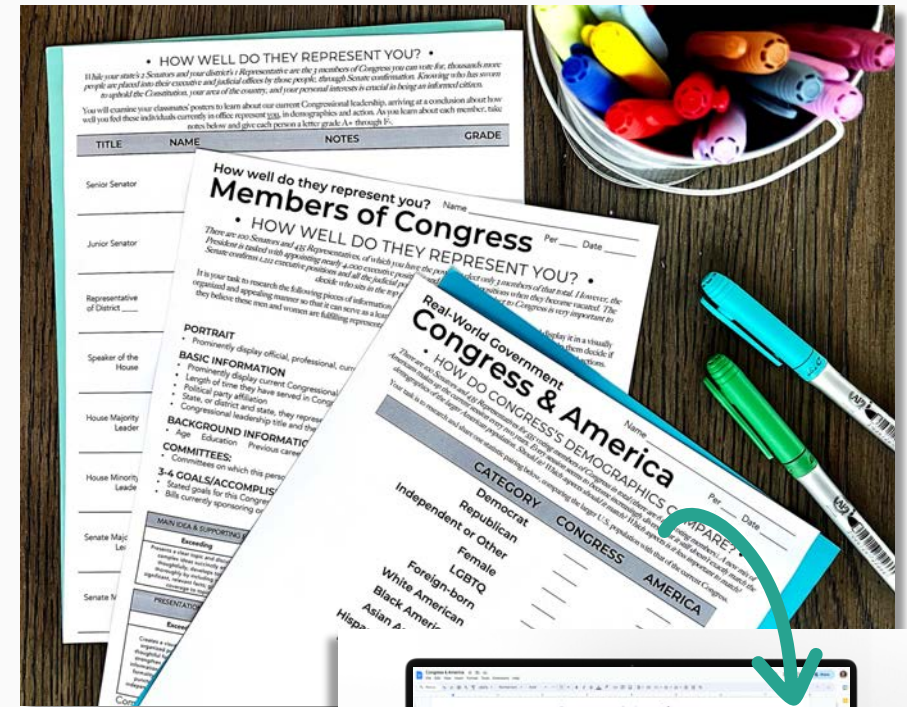
THESE TWO BONUS ACTIVITIES AREN'T AVAILABLE ON THEIR OWN

WASHINGTON DC STATEHOOD *research PBL*

Explore this constitutional issue first-hand as your students **take on the role of advisors** to the President.

Students **research & write thesis-driven essays** recommending whether to admit Washington DC as a new state or maintain its current district status.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Background Information Readings
- ✓ Constitution & Federalist Excerpts
- ✓ Project Check-Off, Research, & Planning Forms
- ✓ Student-Friendly Rubrics & Self-Assessment
- ✓ How-To Skill Reference Sheets
- ✓ Supports & Scaffolds Throughout

© Let's Cultivate Greatness
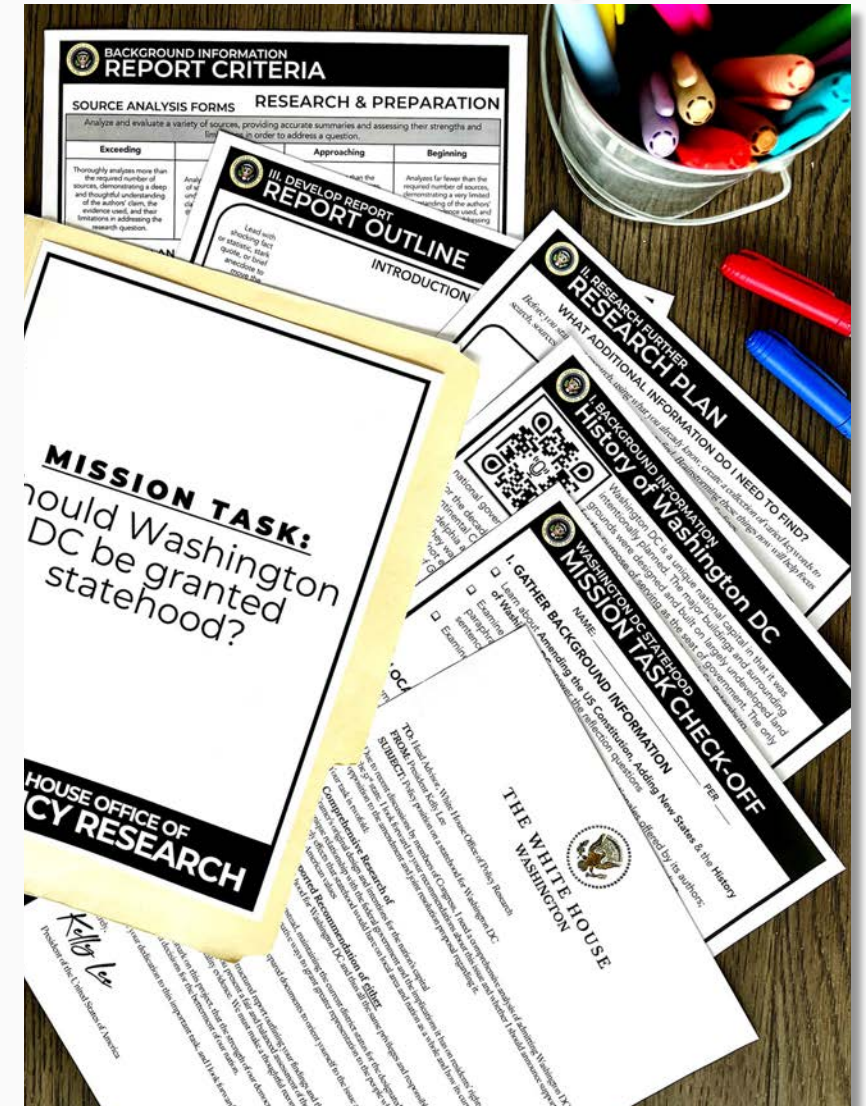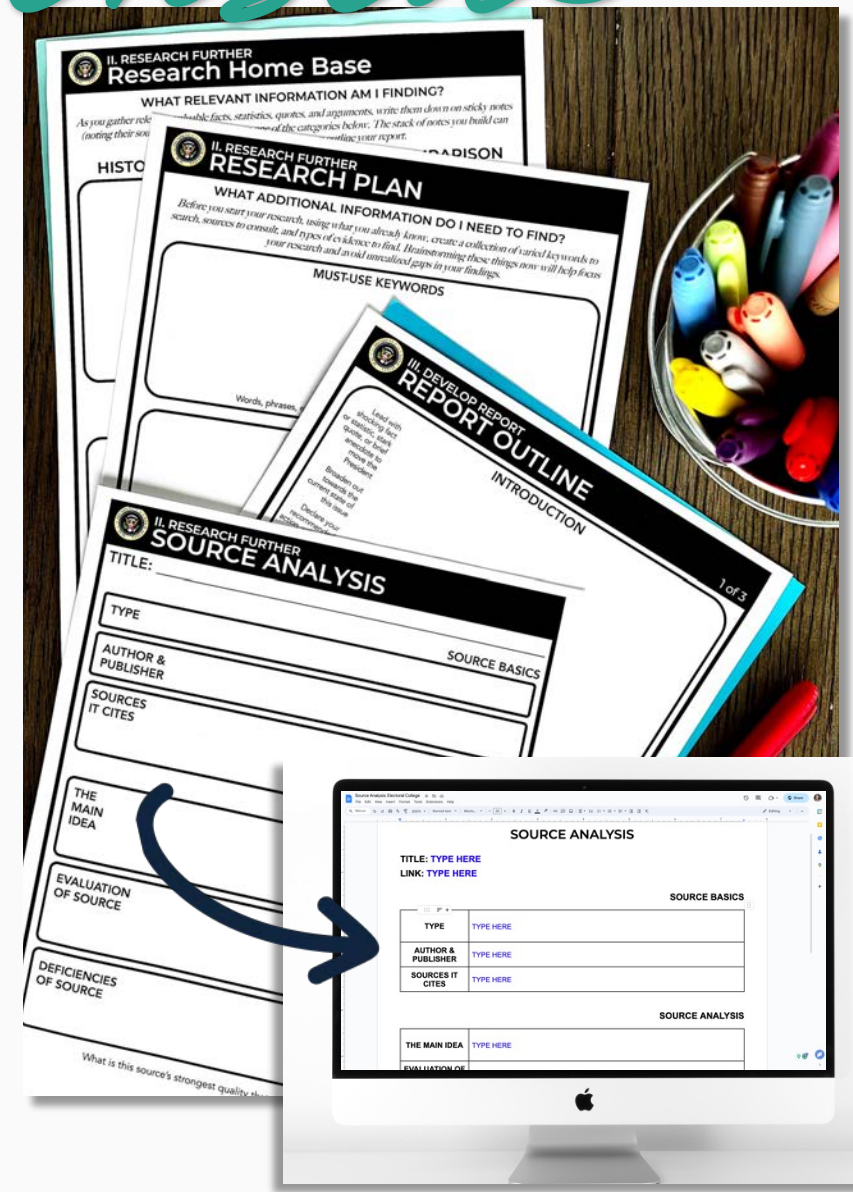
TAKE A FURTHER PEEK *inside*
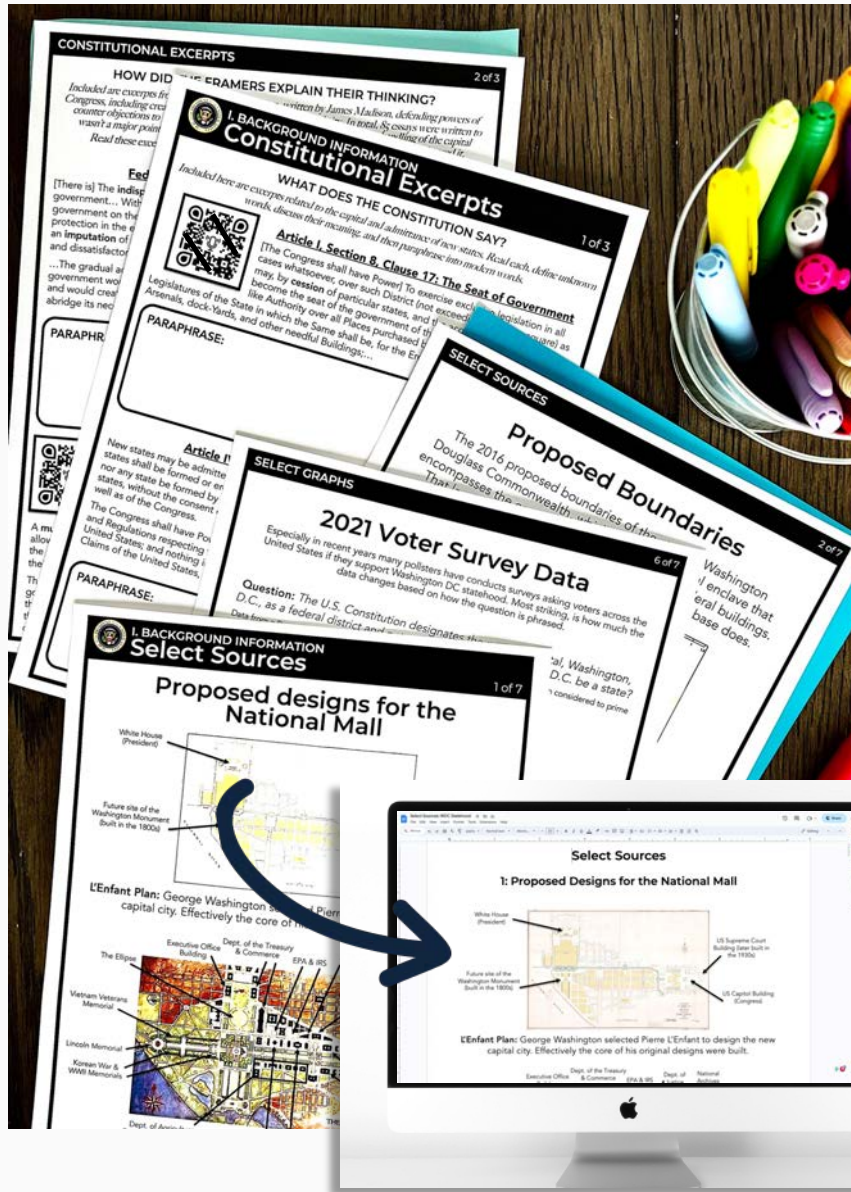
- Step-by-step teachers and student directions
- Background readings & provided data displays
- Research notes graphic organizers
- Writing outline form and supports

Makes a perfect **unit assessment** or **capstone research project**!

REVIEW CARD DECK *with games*

This is the perfect non-screen tool to help students **refresh, solidify, and more deeply understand** the inner workings of the Legislative Branch!

KIT INCLUDES

76 concept and description cards

Header title cards for sorting

20 image cards

10+ review game ideas

Make-your-own template cards

ENCOURAGE COOPERATION & STUDENT TALK WTH THESE NON-SCREEN GAMES

Create Individual Flip Decks

Sort Into Categories

Match Concepts with Images

FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

Will this work for middle school?
These activities are designed for and written at a **high school level**. If your students are advanced or you are willing to make edits, it may work. I use these materials with my very mixed-ability on-level 12th grade Civics class.

Look closely at the previews or purchase one of the resources to sample. If you end up getting this unit bundle, you can **request a refund** from TPT for that resource.

Is this editable?
Yes! Each activity comes with a digital Google file version that is editable for the exclusive purpose for you to customize it to meet your students needs.

Is there a pacing guide?
No. This is a **unit bundle**, meaning it's a collection of all the **standalone resources** you need to cover this topic well. Each resource lists an overall suggested time allotment and suggested times for each segment of the lesson sequence.

Will this work for my <insert unique setting here> classroom?
The preview and product description are **extremely detailed**—be sure to take a close look. Also know that all student materials comes with an editable, digital version. If you still have questions, feel free to **leave a Q&A**!

How is this different from the units in the LCG full-course curriculum?
This bundle contains **plug-and-play resources**, meaning each are self-contained and they're perfect to use interchangeably with your existing materials. They also dive a bit deeper, ensuring full coverage of even the most stringent state standards.

The full-course units each center on inquiry questions, covering topics but all through a lens of the inquiry. Those units are best for teachers in a more flexible situation who are looking to try a more inquiry-driven approach.