

# US GOVERNMENT & CIVICS

## workbook

Confidently teach the basics of the U.S. government and civics with this **complete curriculum workbook**, designed for grades 5-8.

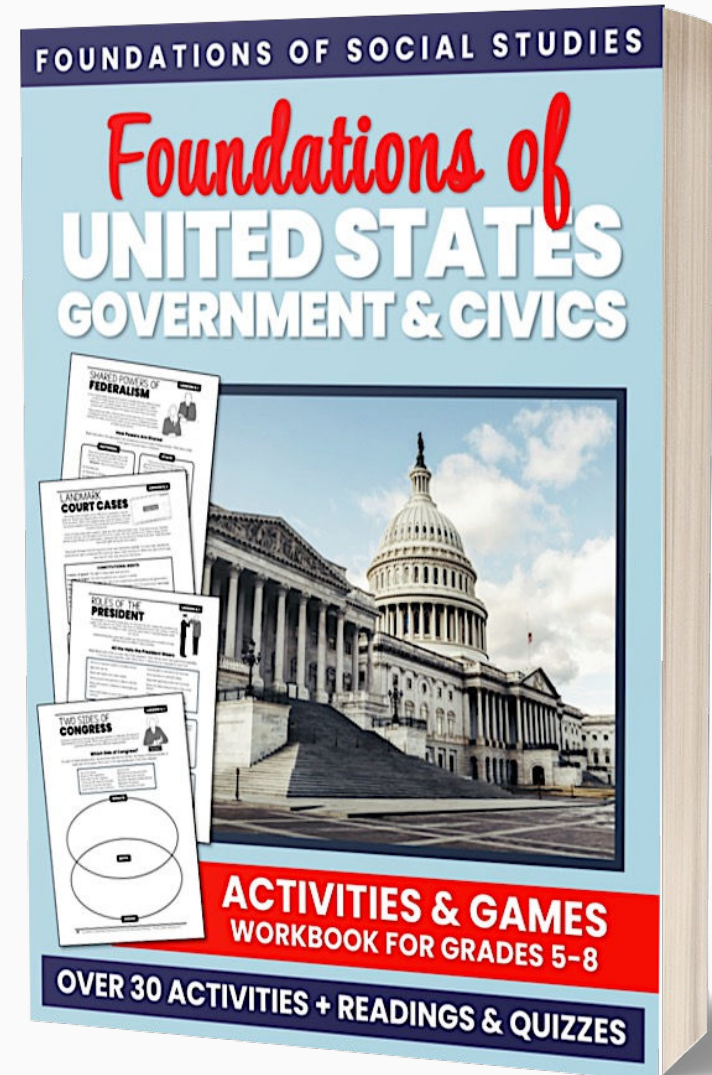
### WHAT'S INCLUDED

**7 Chapters Covering Topics of** the purpose of government, constitutional foundations, the three branches, state and local government

**Over 30 Activities** that practice essential social studies skills and make learning stick

**Review Games and Puzzles** in each chapter to reinforce learning

**Chapter Quizzes** and complete answer keys to check and track growth



# PEEK INSIDE A

# chapter

## THE UNITED STATES' FORM OF GOVERNMENT CHAPTER 2

As you read, think about how the United States' form of government is organized and gives people power.

Government exists in every country, but not all governments are the same. Different countries organize their governments in different ways. The United States uses a specific system that explains who has power, how decisions are made, and how rules are created and followed.

This system did not appear by accident. It was shaped by history, ideas about fairness, and a desire to limit government power. The United States' form of government is often described using a few key words that help explain how it works.

### A Government Based on the People

The United States is a democracy, which means the people have a say in how the government is run. In a democracy, citizens help choose leaders and influence a government that listened to the people instead of ruling over them.

The United States is also a republic, which means the people do not vote on every law themselves. Instead, they elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf. These representatives are expected to listen to voters and act in the community's best interest.

For example, instead of every citizen having to learn about every law before voting, voters elect people to decide their time to studying issues, debating ideas, and making decisions. This makes it possible for a large country to govern itself while still giving people a voice.

These ideas developed partly because the American colonies wanted to break away from England. Under British rule, the colonists had little say in decisions that affected their daily lives. Over time, they believed that government should be based on the consent of the people, not the power of a king or queen. Colonists didn't like England's form of government, a monarchy.

### Sharing Power Across Levels of Government

Another key part of the United States' system is federalism. Federalism means that power is shared between different levels of government. In the United States, power is divided among national, state, and local governments.

The national government makes decisions for the entire country, such as about money or foreign relations. State governments make decisions for people within their state, such as state laws and statewide services. Local governments handle issues close to home, like schools, roads, and public safety.

Federalism helps prevent one level of government from having too much power. It also allows states and communities to make decisions that fit their specific needs. For example, school systems and local services can vary from state to state because

### VOCABULARY

**Democracy** - A system of government in which people have a say in how they are governed.

**Republic** - A form of government in which people vote on representatives to make decisions for them.

**Federalism** - Help prevent one level of government from having too much power. It also allows states and communities to make decisions that fit their specific needs.

**Consent** - A written document that explains how a government works and what powers it has.

## FOUNDING WORDS LESSON 2.1

The American citizens decided to break away from British rule. To explain their reasons, the document did not create a new government, instead, it explained the ideas and beliefs behind their decision.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**Original Text**  
We the People of the United States, when in the course of these events that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**Simplified Text**  
These ideas are about two of people are born with, and everyone has basic rights that cannot be taken away. These rights include: being free, being able to think, and the choice to seek happiness.

These ideas are about two of people are born with, and everyone has basic rights that cannot be taken away. These rights include: being free, being able to think, and the choice to seek happiness.

If a government stops protecting people's rights, we people have the right to change it or even to create a new one that better protects their safety and happiness.

Some rights are unalienable, meaning they cannot be taken away. They list one other right you believe is unalienable for people to have? Why?

What is one type of decision that is made at the national level in your country?

What do the writers believe people can change their government?

What happens if the rules for how government works and what rights people have change?

## GOVERNMENT'S CHARACTERISTICS

Form of government can be described using four words: republic, democracy, federalism, and consent. Each idea explains a different part of government works and how power is shared.

When each concept to its definition (top row) and to an example from each concept to its definition (top row) and to an example from each concept to its definition (top row).

People have a say in government, often by voting.

A written document that explains how government works.

Some rules are made by the soccer league, some are made by the town council.

At summer camp, campers vote on which game to play.

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## AMERICAN VALUES

The United States' form of government is rooted in the values that help guide how the government works and how it serves the people. They also show up in everyday life, in schools, families, and communities.

The USA's values can be summed up into three: freedom, representation, and equality. They are important because they are so important to our lives.

### The FORE Core Values

For each of these values, think about what they mean and how it looks to honor them in your life. Write a short paragraph about how you see the government supporting these values? How do you see people and organizations in your life, such as your family, school, church, or sports team, supporting these values?

#### FREEDOM

The ability to make choices and live without unfair limits.

**In the U.S.**

**In my life**

#### OPPORTUNITY

The chance to learn, grow, and succeed in a fair and safe way.

**In the U.S.**

**In my life**

#### REPRESENTATION

Having a voice and being represented in decisions that affect you.

**In the U.S.**

**In my life**

#### EQUALITY

Being treated fairly under the law.

**In the U.S.**

**In my life**

### THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

**Original Text**  
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby adopt this Constitution for the United States of America.

**Simplified Text**  
We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do hereby adopt this Constitution for the United States of America.

## LET'S REVIEW LESSON 2.4

After completing all the activities in this chapter, use these games as review for what you learned.

### FIND THE WORD

Use the clues below to find key terms and concepts covered in this chapter.

T	C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N	W	G	Y	M	P	
H	E	P	L	R	G	J	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	S	I	C	O	
I	P	R	E	A	M	B	L	E	I	N	G	O	T	Z	V	N	G	
D	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	D	C	Y	N	C	G	A	A	B	
S	P	R	U	G	W	E	I	K	O	L	S	R	C	T	L	C	W	
A	L	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	Q	U	E	B	E	U	R	E
R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	N	S	E	H	A

Who is at the center of a democracy?  
The U.S.'s most important statement of purpose, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Who is above the law in the U.S.?  
The President shares goals and values with the people.

### MARK THE TRAIL

Color in the boxes of statements that are true about the U.S.'s government. Focus a trail from start to finish, going up, down, left, right, or diagonal.

<b>START</b> The U.S. has a form of government that is a democracy.	The Declaration of Independence contains the words "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."	Power is shared between national, state, and local governments.	The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Founding Fathers.	The U.S. has a form of government that is a republic.	"We the People" is the first sentence of the U.S. Constitution.
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Text reading with vocab & questions

A variety of interactive activities organized into three lessons

Review games & chapter quiz

# DESIGNED WITH *intention*

This is intentionally designed as a full curriculum in the ease of a student workbook format.

- Designed for a middle school level, but also as a high school refresher
- Incorporates many core social studies & critical thinking skills while also covering essential content
- Built for open-and-go ease, making it an easy “yes” for homeschool families and classroom teachers

