

This lesson: Principles of the Constitution

Major Principles of the Constitution

- Popular Sovereignty
- Republicanism
- Limited Government
- Federalism
- Separation of Powers
- Checks & Balances
- Individual Rights

Seven Basic Principles of the Constitution

- Federalism
- Republicanism
- Individual rights
- Checks and balances
- Popular sovereignty
- Separation of powers
- Limited powers of government

The Six Basic Principles

The Constitution—the supreme law of the land—is built on six basic principles of government.

★	POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY
★	LIMITED GOVERNMENT
★	SEPARATION OF POWERS
★	CHECKS AND BALANCES
★	JUDICIAL REVIEW
★	FEDERALISM

- Which of the six principles means that government can exist only with the consent of the governed?
- Which principle authorizes the courts to determine the constitutionality of government actions?

Principle – a fundamental truth, concept, or foundation

We the People

Benchmark: SS.7.C.1.7

Describe how the Constitution **limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.**

Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Clafs. The Seats of the Senators of the first Clafs shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Clafs at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Clafs at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Course of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill the Seats.

Attn: Teachers – this PowerPoint with lesson plans and activities are available for \$1.99 @ Teachers Pay Teachers: Mr. Raymond's Civics EOC Academy

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 ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

- Popular Sovereignty
- Separation of Powers
- Checks & Balances
- Limited Government
 - Federalism

of the United States, the only person who shall be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment

• Limited Government



- All power not listed in the government is reserved for the states or people

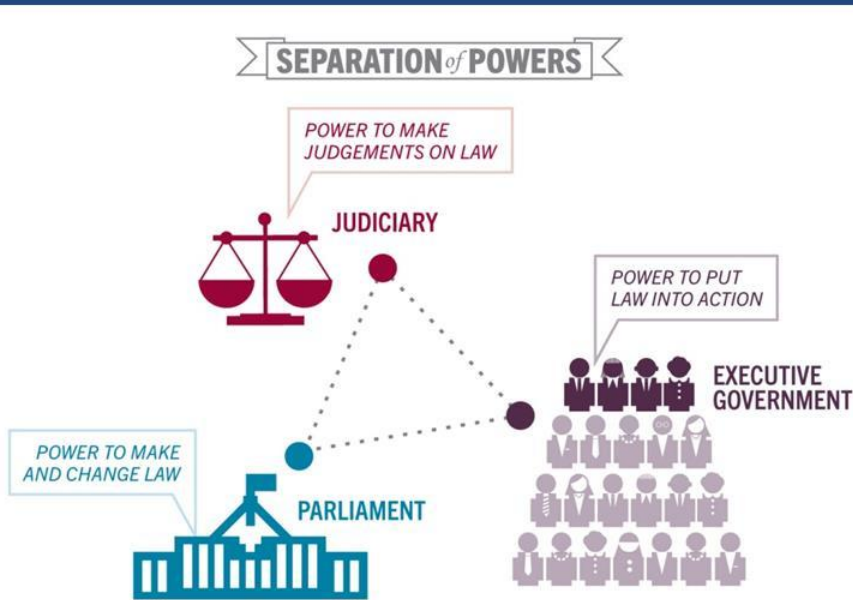
• Popular Sovereignty



Popular = People | Sovereign = Power

Popular Sovereignty – the people are the source of government power

• Separation of Powers



...to promote the general Welfare of the United States of America...
...in a Congress of the United States...
Members chosen every second Year...
...several States which may have no Representatives, including the District of Columbia...
...shall be made within three Years...
...and until such emergency shall exist...
...South Carolina for the Executive Authority...

All the powers of government in one place

Bad idea!

Better idea!

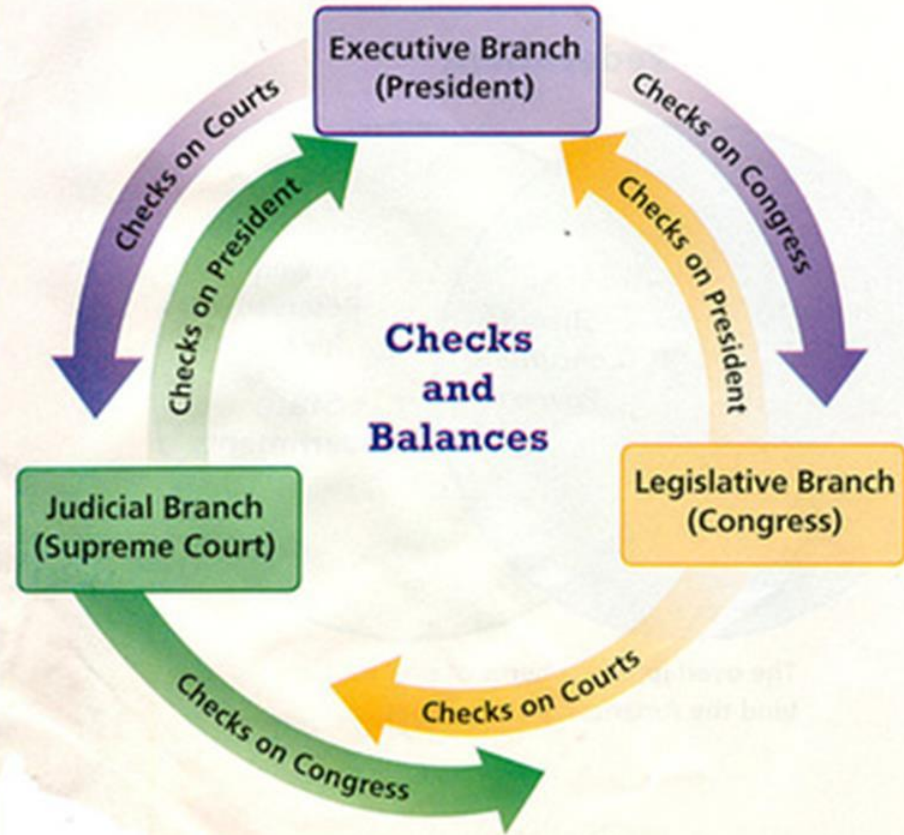
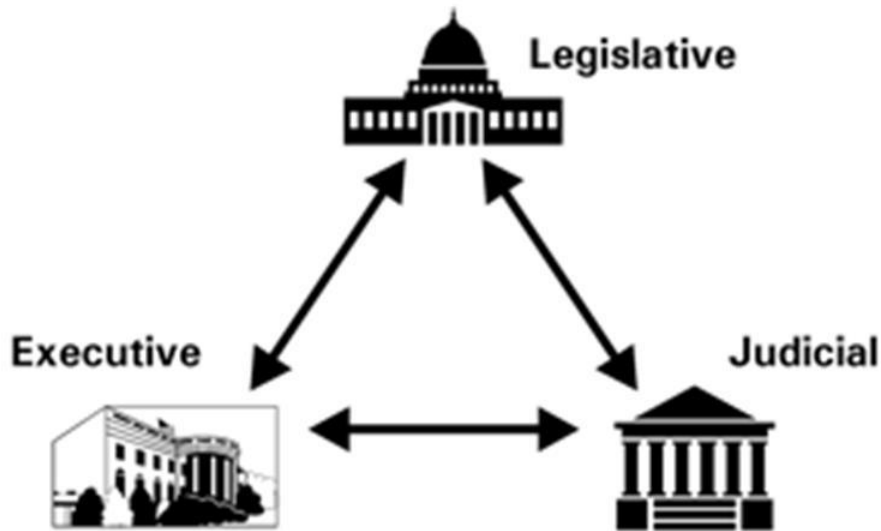


• Montesquieu

- Separating power between the three branches ensures that no one has TOO much power

• Checks & Balances

Each branch has power to keep the others in line!



- Each branch “checks” the powers of the others

Checks & Balances Examples

Legislative - Congress



Create Bill (Law)

Declare Law
Unconstitutional

Judicial – Supreme Court

Veto's Law

Executive - President



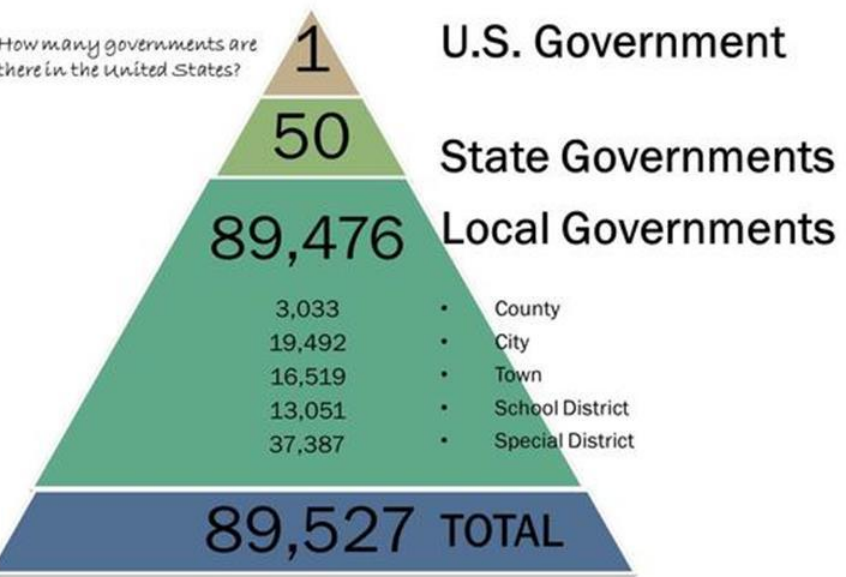
• Federalism

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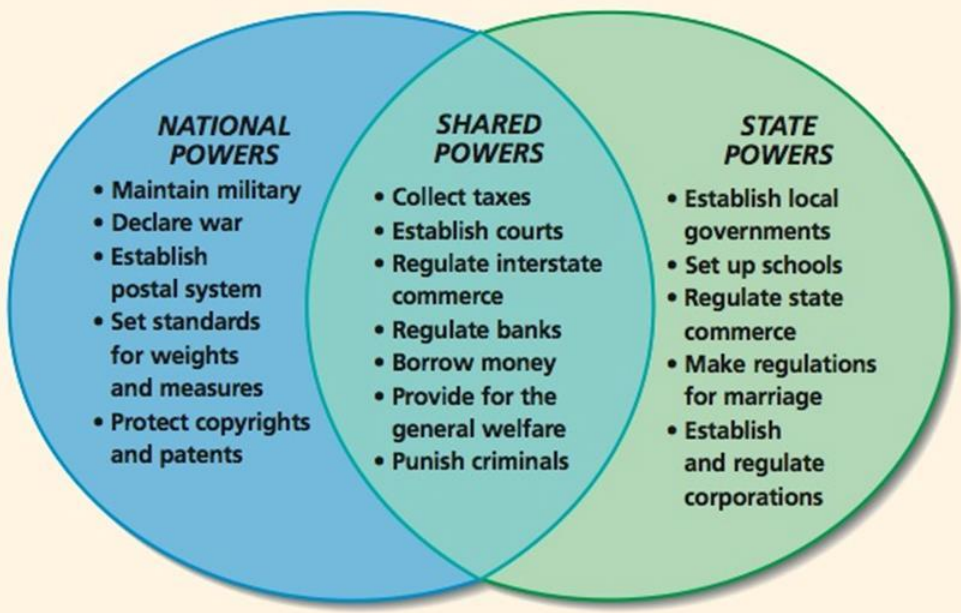
Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

How many governments are there in the United States?



Americans live under both national and state governments.



Clasp at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen. The Clasp of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make for

- Power shared between the federal (national) govt. & the state govt.

• Review

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Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Which principle implies that the People are the ones with the Power over the government?

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Popular Sovereignty

such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President, pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment according to Law.

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Which principle describes how each branch directly limits the power of the other branches?

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Checks & Balances

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Which principle states that the national government & the state governments share powers?

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Federalism

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• Review

Which principle describes that the national government only has the powers listed in the Constitution?

Limited Government

• Review

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Which principle is about sharing powers between the different branches?

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