

Branches of Government

WebQuest Description: SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States.

- Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States).
- Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia).
- State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: executive,judicial,legislative

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Introduction

In this lesson, I want you to learn to identify the three branches of the United States Government and identify the main jobs that are involved in each branch and what they do. You will also learn about the checks and balances system and how it works. You must learn the 3 branches of government and the checks and balances system because you need to know the basics of how their government works and how the different branches work together to make, enforce and interpret laws. Ever wonder how the United States government runs our country? There is a lot more to it than you might think. The government is divided up into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. These three branches of the government work cohesively to run the country and make sure all citizens are following the laws. It's important as US citizens to be aware of how our government works and understand why it is ran the way that it is. Let's take a closer look at these three branches. Legislative- This branch makes the laws. The people that make up the legislative branch of the government include the House of Representatives and the Senate. They are in charge of deciding what become laws for the United States. Executive- This branch enforces the laws. The people that make up the executive branch include the president, vice president, members of the president's cabinet, and military forces. They all make sure that our nation stays safe and that citizens are abiding by the laws set by the legislative branch. Judicial- This branch interprets the laws. The Supreme Court and federal, state, and local governments make up this branch. If a law is broken or accused of being broken, the judicial branch and the members that compose it review the case and decide whether or not the law was broken. They interpret the actions of those brought before them.

Tasks

You will use index cards to determine what each branch is, what they do and what the main jobs are. You will receive these index cards and sort them by each branch, what the main jobs are in that branch and what their responsibilities are. You will also work in pairs to discuss their sorting strategies. You will also receive a mini lesson which will be direct instruction and you will also watch two videos that discuss checks and balances and branches of the government.

Process

You will first name and define the Executive Branch, Judiciary Branch and Legislative Branch. You will then discuss with your classmates what you think the main jobs in each branch are and what they do. You will then make your own diagram of the 3 branches that will include a definition and what the main jobs are in that branch. Next, you will receive a mini lesson on the checks and balances system. Finally you will apply all that you have learned and write a short essay on the 3 branches that will also include a section on the checks and balances system and branches of government. You will get into groups and use index cards to determine what each branch is, what they do and what the main jobs are. You will receive these index cards and sort them by each branch, what the main jobs are in that branch and what their responsibilities are. You will work in pairs to discuss their sorting strategies. The mini lesson will be direct instruction. You will also watch two videos that discuss checks and balances. and the branches of the government. Step one: You will first name and define the Executive Branch, Judiciary Branch and Legislative Branch. Step two: Discuss with your classmates what you think the main jobs in each branch are and what they do. Step three: Make your own diagram of the 3 branches that will include a definition and what the main jobs are in that branch. Step four: Listen to a mini lesson on the checks and balances system and branches of government. Step five: Apply all that you have learned and write a short essay on the 3 branches that will also include a section on the checks and balances system. Step six: You will get into groups and use index cards to determine what each branch is, what they do and what the main jobs are.

Evaluation

You will receive 2 assessments for this lesson. The first assessment will be a short pre test on the 3 branches of government, what they do and their responsibilities. For this quiz you will match the branches to their jobs and their responsibilities. This quiz will allow me to better understand what you already know about the subject. The second assessment will be a short essay. You will have to tell me what you learned and what you know about the 3 branches, what they do and what their responsibility is. You will also have to give some information on checks and balances.

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Conclusion

Success! We are done!! In this lesson, you should have learned all about the three branches of the U.S. Government, what they do, major jobs in each branch and what their role is in the law making process. You also learned what the checks and balances system is and how it limits the powers of each branch. This lesson was taught because it is so important for my young students to know about the importance of their government and how it works. It is also important for you to know how the branches work together to make, enforce and interpret laws. I also felt that you needed to know how important our checks and balances system is in order to limit the powers of each branch.

Teacher Page

This webquest is a week long lesson on the 3 branches of government and the checks and balances system.

Standards

SS3CG1: Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States. a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States). b. Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia). c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).

Credits

<https://bensguide.gpo.gov/a-what-are-branches>
<https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government#item-211477>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bf3CwYCxXw>
<https://bensguide.gpo.gov/j-check-balance>

Other