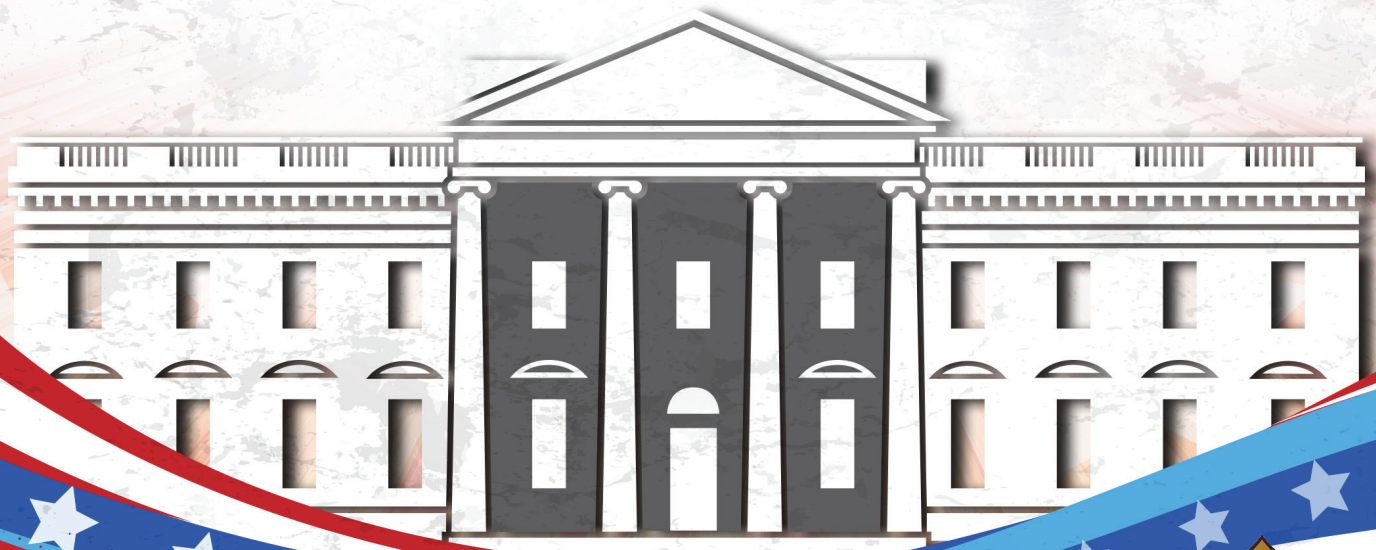


Government By The People

Educating our youth about structures, functions and operations of government at federal, state and local levels

ProtectTheHarvest.com





Dear Teacher,

Protect the Harvest is pleased to offer “Government by the People” for your use. Our core beliefs are twofold about this curriculum: First, We should teach our youth about the structures, functions, and operations of their government. Second, your teaching about the structure, functions, and operation of their government will inspire each student to participate more fully as a citizen in the processes of government.

The learning objectives are:

- 1. Each student will identify the three branches and the levels of Government.**
- 2. Each student will match the roles of each branch as assigned by the United States Constitution and the constitution of each state to the branch with the responsibility at the federal, state and local levels of government.**
- 3. Each student will continue learning about the government in his or her home jurisdiction.**
- 4. Each student will participate in the government by attending government public meetings and voting.**
- 5. Each student will either support candidates for public office or run for a public office themselves.**

Protect the Harvest was founded by Forrest and Charlotte Lucas to protect the right to own property. They believe that informed participation in all levels of government is essential to the protection of those Constitutional rights to own property. This curriculum is designed to assist you in teaching and engaging your students in the most exciting task of participating in our governance.

Sincerely,



Forrest Lucas, President & CEO

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It Takes All Kinds of Kinds.
What kind are you?*

**You could be forced to give up your freedom to hunt, fish and own animals.*

Learn More about this at: **ProtectTheHarvest.com**

INTRODUCTION

After the original 13 colonies became the United States, other states joined the union. For example, Indiana became a state on December 11, 1816, President James Madison signed the congressional resolution admitting Indiana becoming the 19th state. Since the time of Indiana becoming the 19th state, we have had 31 more states admitted with Hawaii being the 50th state of the United States. Each state operates with 3 branches of government. Each state has an executive, legislative, and judicial branch modeled after the federal government. Those three branches work with three levels of government including our federal, state and local government.

Each state government is regulated by the Constitution of that state. Each state may write and amend its constitution with the only limit being that the state constitution may not conflict with the Constitution of the United States. Our governments, from federal to local levels, must work together in order for our states to operate effectively and efficiently. The people of the United States must rely on our state and local levels to coordinate with each other to improve the well-being of the residents of our state. The effective and efficient management of government is the responsibility of the elected officials and appointed officials in our government. The elected individuals are elected by voters during state and local elections. The elected officials then select additional officials as required by the statutes of the creating the positions of the appointed officials. The terms of office (time that the official serves) vary according to the statutes creating the office.

Government by the People invites youth and their educators, to continue to learn more about government structures, functions, and operations in the United States. The hope is that learning about government will encourage more youth and all ages to get involved in government within their city, state, or federal levels. The informed educator will help emphasize the importance of government to youth who are students. Everyone can and should increase our interest, our understanding, and our participation in our government if we truly want “Government by the People.”

Self-government is the guarantee of the protection of our rights.



OBJECTIVES

1. Each student will identify the three branches and the levels of Government.
2. Each student will match the roles of each branch as assigned by the United States Constitution and the constitution of each state to the branch with the responsibility at the federal, state and local levels of government.
3. Each student will continue learning about the government in his or her home jurisdiction.
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PRESENTATION POLLS

- Begin lesson with asking your class to answer the following questions prior to and after the lesson is presented to the class.
- Ask the class to raise a hand if the statement made is true.
 - o There are three levels of government.
 - o The state governments are modeled after the federal government.
 - o The Governor is the head of the executive branch at the state level in every state.
 - o There are three branches of federal and state government.

Number of Students	Grade level	Name of School	City, State
Question	Pre-Presentation Hands Raised	Post-Presentation Hands Raised	Difference of pre and post presentation
There are three levels of government.			
The state governments are modeled after the federal government.			
The Governor is the head of the executive branch at the state level in every state.			
There are three branches of federal and state government.			
Please add any comments and suggestions:			

It is imperative for us to collect information prior to and after the presentation to see if our efforts are making an impact on our youth. We ask that you please record the results from your presentation and input the results on our website.

Please visit our website at www.ProtectTheHarvest.com to record your results. Thank you.

LESSON PRESENTATION

FEDERAL

All government authority in the United States is circumscribed by the United States Constitution. A link to the Constitution is in the Teacher Resources. The Tenth Amendment is the amendment that governs the authority granted among the federal government, the states, and the people. It is set out in its entirety here.

AMENDMENT X

THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE.

The federal government consists of three branches: executive, legislative and judicial as developed and described by the U.S. Constitution. Each branch is equally important to keep one from being more powerful than the other. The powers and duties of these branches are further defined by acts of Congress, including the creation of executive departments and courts underneath the Supreme Court.

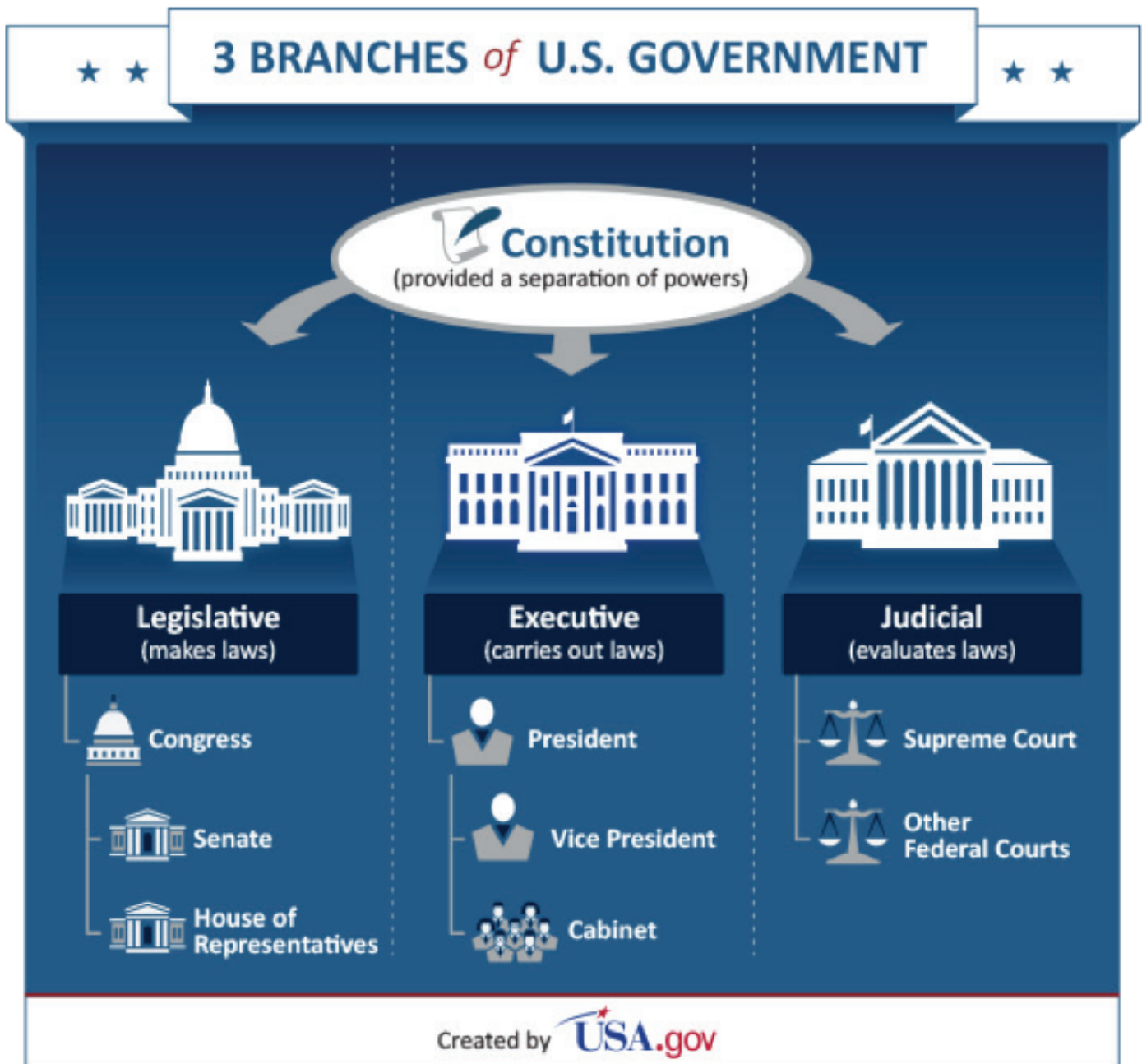
The executive branch is made up of the President, Vice President, and the cabinet. The cabinet is delegated specific powers but ultimately the President has the final say. The President is both the head of state and government, as well as the military commander-in-chief and chief diplomat. The President, according to the Constitution, must “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”, and “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution”. The President presides over the executive branch of the federal government, including active-duty military personnel and postal service employees.

The legislative branch consists of the United States Congress; it is bicameral and made up of the House of Representatives and Senate. Bicameral means having two branches, chambers, or houses, as a legislative body. The Senate is made up of two senators from each state for a total of 100 senators regardless of the population. The House of Representatives is made up of 435 representatives. The number of representatives from each state is determined by on the population of each state by the most current US census.

The judicial branch explains and applies the laws. This branch does this by hearing evidence and eventually making decisions on various legal cases. Cases start at the trial level but the United States Supreme Court is the ultimate and final body of the judicial branch of the federal level. Nine justices make up the Supreme Court. These nine justices are appointed and approved by majority vote in the senate. The U.S. Constitution states that federal judges shall hold office “during good behavior”; in practice, this usually means they serve until they die, retire, or resign. A judge who commits an offense while in office may be impeached in the same way as the President or other officials of the federal government.



Charts are pictures of how our federal government is organized. There is one provided in the back for a handout for students. The chart provides a good visual learning aid to follow along as the presentation is given.

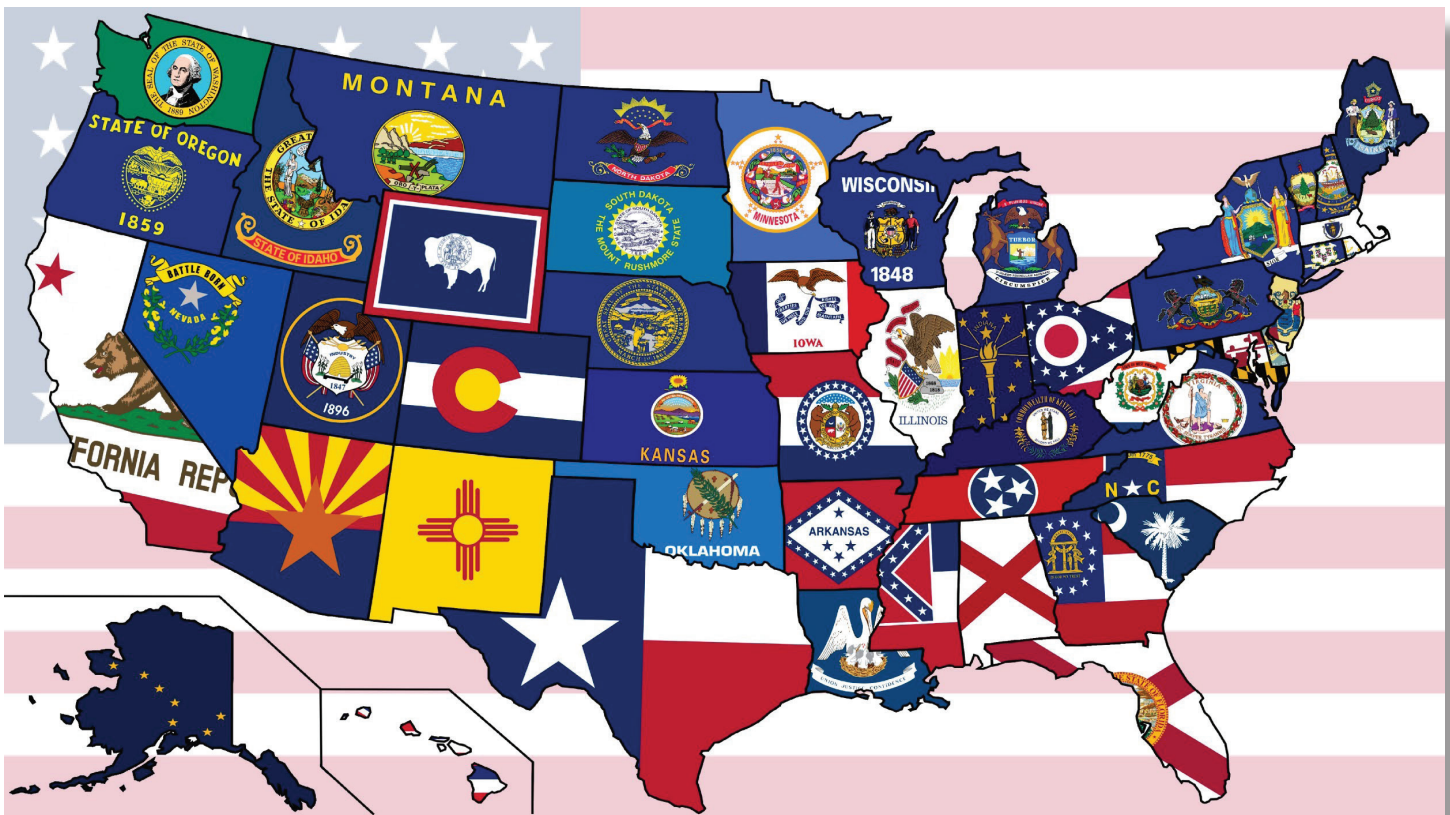


Federal Government Review:

1. Which branch carries out the laws? *Executive Branch*
2. Which branch makes the laws? *Legislative Branch*
3. Which branch evaluates the laws? *Judicial Branch*
4. How many Supreme Court Justices are appointed? *9*
5. Can you name the two senators from your state that serve in Congress?
Answers will vary depending on your state.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The next level is the state level of the government. Each state government is formed and regulated by the Constitution of the state. The state level operates much like the federal level. It is made up of the executive, legislative and judicial branch. These three branches are important to the roles of each state. Most officials are elected into office for 4 year terms. Some states have exceptions like the State Representatives where they may be only elected for 2 year terms. Together, the officials who serve in all three branches are responsible for the creation, the implementation, and the interpretation of the laws that are appropriate for the state. Sometimes, the state laws can be over turned at the federal level if they conflict with the U. S. Constituent or are preempted by the federal jurisdiction. Under the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. There is much debate about the legitimate functions of the states and federal government.



Executive:

The first of the branches is the executive branch. In most states, executive branch is made up of:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Auditor
- Secretary of State
- Treasurer
- Superintendent of Public Instruction

Do you know who holds these offices in the state? Discuss with students.

The Governor is the head of the executive branch. He is elected every 4 years during the election process. He works out of the state house and responsible for overseeing day to day management of state agencies. He works with the other members of the executive branch to insure the functions of the agencies are going as planned. The Lieutenant Governor also serves a 4 year term. The Lieutenant Governor is much like the Vice President in that if the governor is unable to finish the term of office, the Lieutenant Governor will complete the term. The Lieutenant Governor may serve as the head of various state offices and bureaus as well as chairmen of several state committees.

The Attorney General and the deputies in that office help protect our rights, freedoms and safety we enjoy. The way an attorney general is selected and the assigned duties of the office are different in each state. In most states, the attorney general's office handles complaints from citizens of the state. The Office represents the state in cases involving the state's interest and provides legal defense to state officials or agencies in court, advises the Governor, members of the Legislature, other state officials, and county prosecutors on legal issues. The attorney general may have many roles in state government as described in the state constitution or statutes of the state.

The next official in our executive branch is our state auditor. The Auditor of State is the chief financial officer of the state. They have four primary duties: accounting for all of the state's funds; overseeing and disbursing county, city, town and school tax distributions; paying the state's bills; and paying the state's employees.

The Secretary of State often serves as the State's chief election officer, enforces state securities regulations, regulates automobile dealerships, and manages the state business services division. The secretary of state's office maintains a list of all corporations operating in the state.

The state treasurer serves as the chief custodian of each state's treasury and as the state's head banker. Typically, they receive and deposit state monies, manage investments, and keep track of budget surpluses and deficits. Texas is the only state that does not have a state treasurer; in 1996 they removed the position from the state government.

The state superintendent of public instruction can be referred to in many different ways. Each state refers to this official differently but they still all have the same overall goal for their respective state. Each one still have the same responsibility to advance the quality of education in that state. The basic duties include providing information, resources, and technical assistance on educational matters to schools and residents in the state.



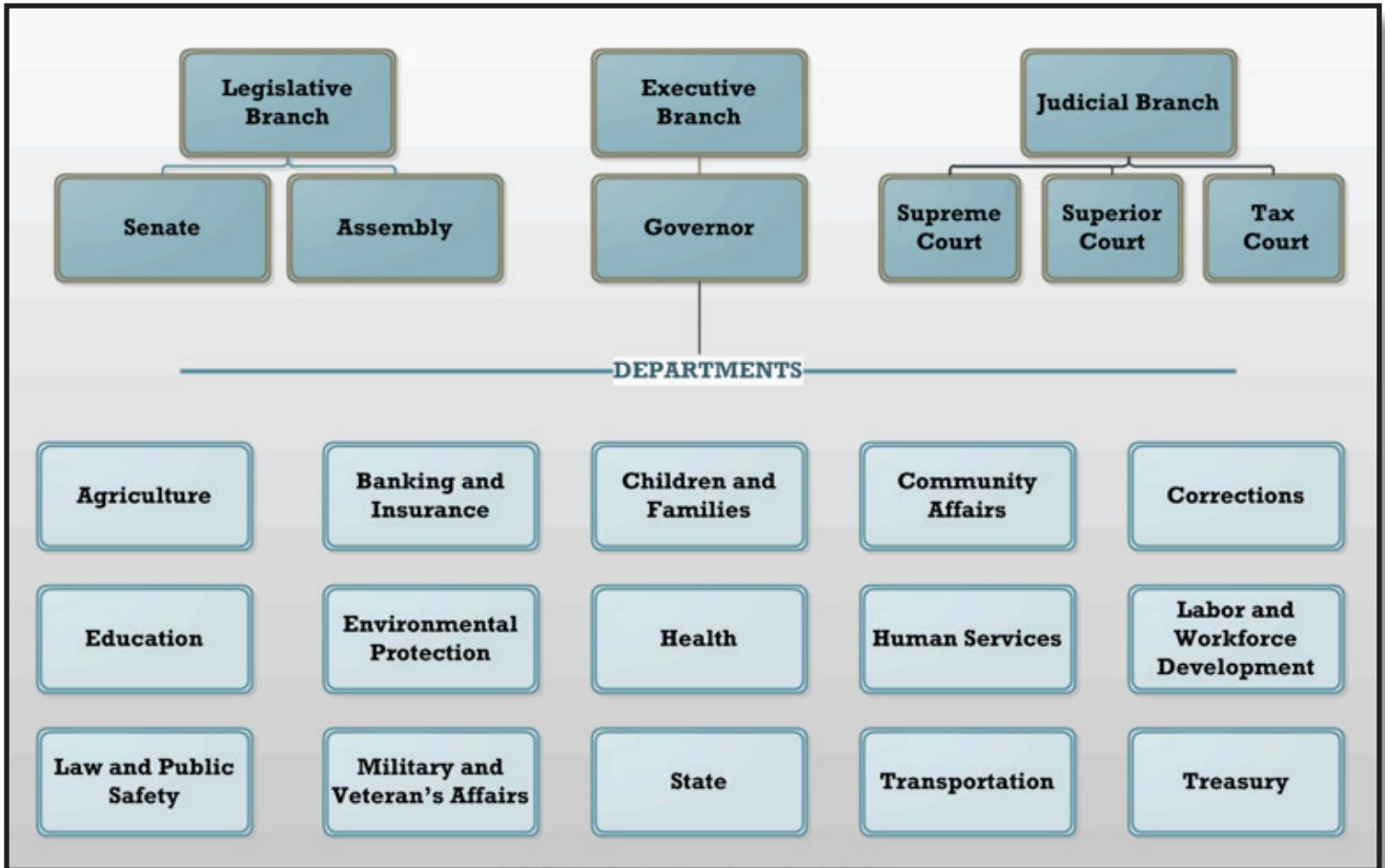
Legislative

The next branch is the legislative. All 50 states have legislatures made up of elected representatives. These elected representatives review information that is brought to them by the governor or by the members to decide on what becomes law. The members of the legislature form committees to hear from the people of that state about their needs and ideas for laws. Legislators also approve state budget and initiates tax legislation and articles of impeachment. They serve as part of a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government to prevent any of the branches from abusing its power.

Forty nine states have a bicameral legislature made up of a smaller upper house and a larger lower house. Bicameral meaning having two chambers or bodies. Together the two chambers make state laws and fulfill other governing responsibilities. The smaller upper chamber is always called the Senate, and its members generally serve longer terms, usually four years. The larger lower chamber is most often called the House of Representatives, but some states call it the Assembly or the House of Delegates. Its members usually serve shorter terms, often two years. Nebraska is the exception to the other states in that it has only one chamber in its legislature. Nebraska has a unicameral legislature.

Judicial

The third branch is the judicial branch. The court of last resort for the state is generally called the state supreme court. The state supreme court is the one that hears appeals from lower-level state courts. Often the state supreme court has a leadership and administrative role for the lower state courts. Court structures and judicial appointments/elections are determined either by legislation or the state constitution. The Supreme Court focuses on correcting errors made in lower courts and therefore holds no trials. Rulings made in state supreme courts are normally binding. However, when questions are raised regarding compliance or consistency with the U.S. Constitution, the losing party may request permission from the United States Supreme Court to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.



State Government Review

1. What are the three branches of State Government? *Executive, legislative, and judicial.*
What level are they modeled after? *Federal Government*
2. Name three officials in the executive branch?
Governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor, secretary of state, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction. (Student needs to list only 3)
3. Forty nine states have a bicameral legislature what does this mean?
They are made up of a smaller upper house and a larger lower house.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The final of the three levels of government is the local government. Most states have at least two tiers of local government: counties and municipalities. It is important to understand that “government” is not just in Washington, D.C., or your local state capital. In fact, local governments’ decisions often have more impact on our daily lives than those of the federal or state governments. In addition to general purpose local governments, there may be local or regional special-purpose local governments such as school districts and districts for fire protection, sanitary sewer service, public transportation, public libraries, or water resource management. Such special purpose districts often encompass areas in multiple municipalities. It is important for everyone to be involved in local government decision making. What are ways you can get involved in your local government?

An example of local government is the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees runs your local library. It is true that the library director is responsible for daily activities of the library, but the board of trustees hires the director. A great way to find out what your local library board does is to look at the meeting notes from the group. These meeting minutes will cover anything that is discussed in the board meeting. You can access meeting notes online if your library has a website. If not, you can visit your local library and request copies from your library director or president.

Once you have received minutes from several meetings, review them in class. Have class discuss the following questions to get a clear understanding of what occurs in the minutes.

- 1. What kinds of things are discussed at the board meetings?**
- 2. What do they not discuss?**
- 3. Who are the directors?**
- 4. Do they discuss budget plans?**
- 5. Who does the hiring for the library?**
- 6. What other things are discussed during the meetings?**

If the option is available, a field trip to the library would be an excellent resource on a form of local government. Students could get a clear understanding of how one form of local government operates.

The Library Board of Trustees is just a small example of how your local government operates. You are surrounded everyday by the operations of your local government. Local government has variations from state to state and from county to county. The Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution makes local government a matter of state rather than federal law, with special cases for territories and the District of Columbia. As a result, the states have adopted a wide variety of systems of local government. County governments, town or township governments, municipal governments, and special purpose local governments are variations to local governments. Not every state nor every city is structured the same. Each government varies depending on the statute of the state.

Handout C gives a great example of how your federal, state, and local governments overlap and work together to make the best for each of us.

This curriculum has been created to help our youth develop a further understanding of the structures, functions, and operations of our government. Our hope is get our youth involved early on in government to insure their informed participation to protect their rights and future. Our youth need to have a clear understanding that government involvement goes above just simply voting. They need to understand the ideas that our government officials need to follow. This unit has been developed for that purpose.

An opportunity for your students is to involve them in volunteering on a local level. There are so many opportunities available that can get our youth involved in the importance of these government agencies. We encourage you to schedule a field trip to a library board meeting, a court or jail. Youth will benefit by having guided exposure to local and state government agencies. The face to face visits make the government seem more accessible. If permitted by the schools, encourage your students to work as a poll volunteer during the elections in your community. You will find a worksheet example for students to complete after a field trip or even having someone come speak with the students.

Thank you for your teaching. Your use of Government by the People will help our youth understand the need for the citizen involvement in our elections. Please spread the word to encourage our youth to get involved in the future of our local government, state and federal levels.

VOLUNTEERING FIELD TRIP ASSIGNMENT

1. *Where did you visit and what is the purpose of the organization?*

2. *What services are provided by this organization?*

3. *Who makes decisions for the organization? Do they have a board of directors? President?*

4. *In what level and branch of government does this organization fit?*

5. *Where does this agency get its funding?*

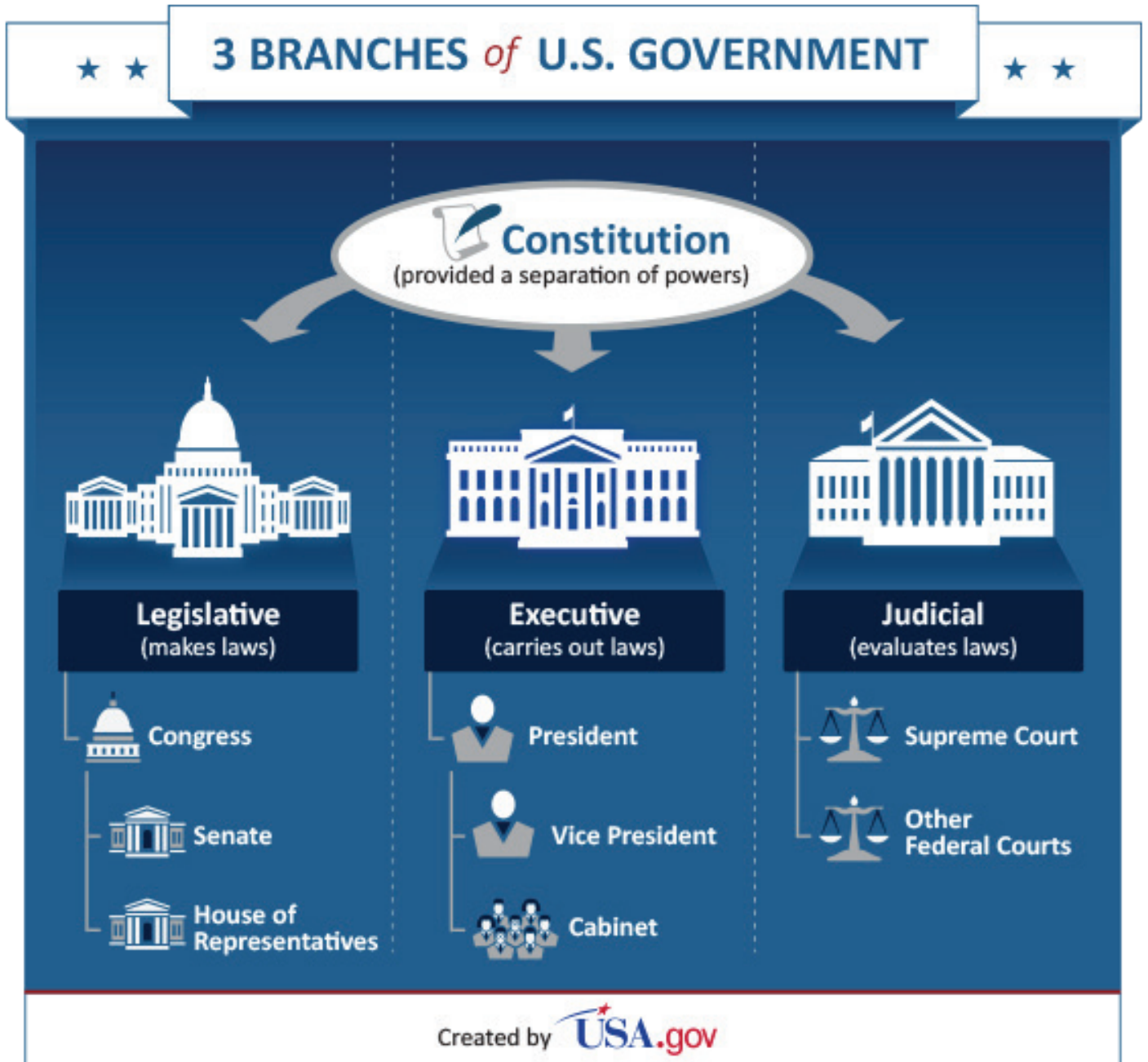
6. *Does this agency use volunteers?*

7. *What can you do to help keep this agency operate more effectively?*

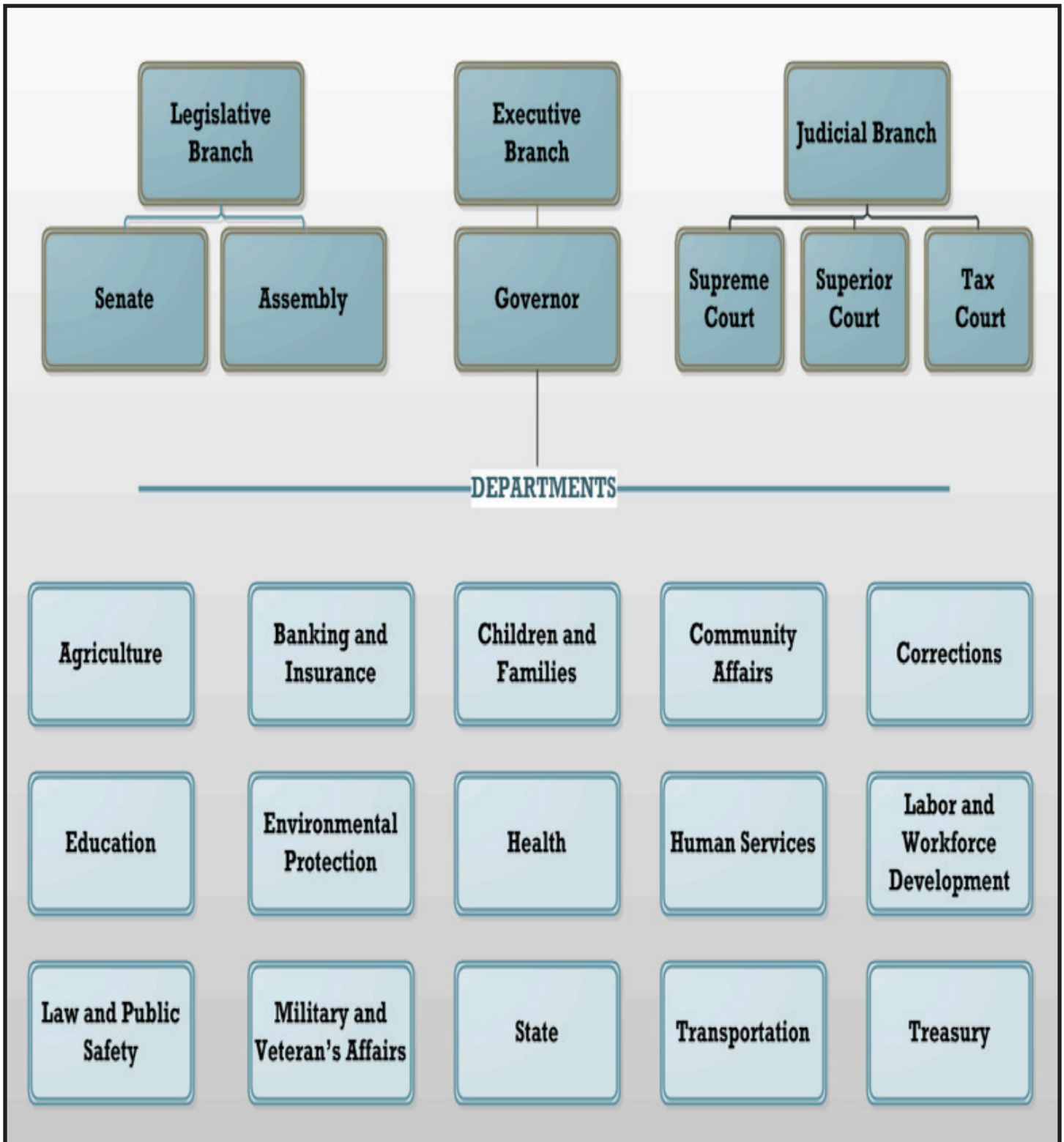


Handouts

Handout (a)



Handout (b)



Handout (c)

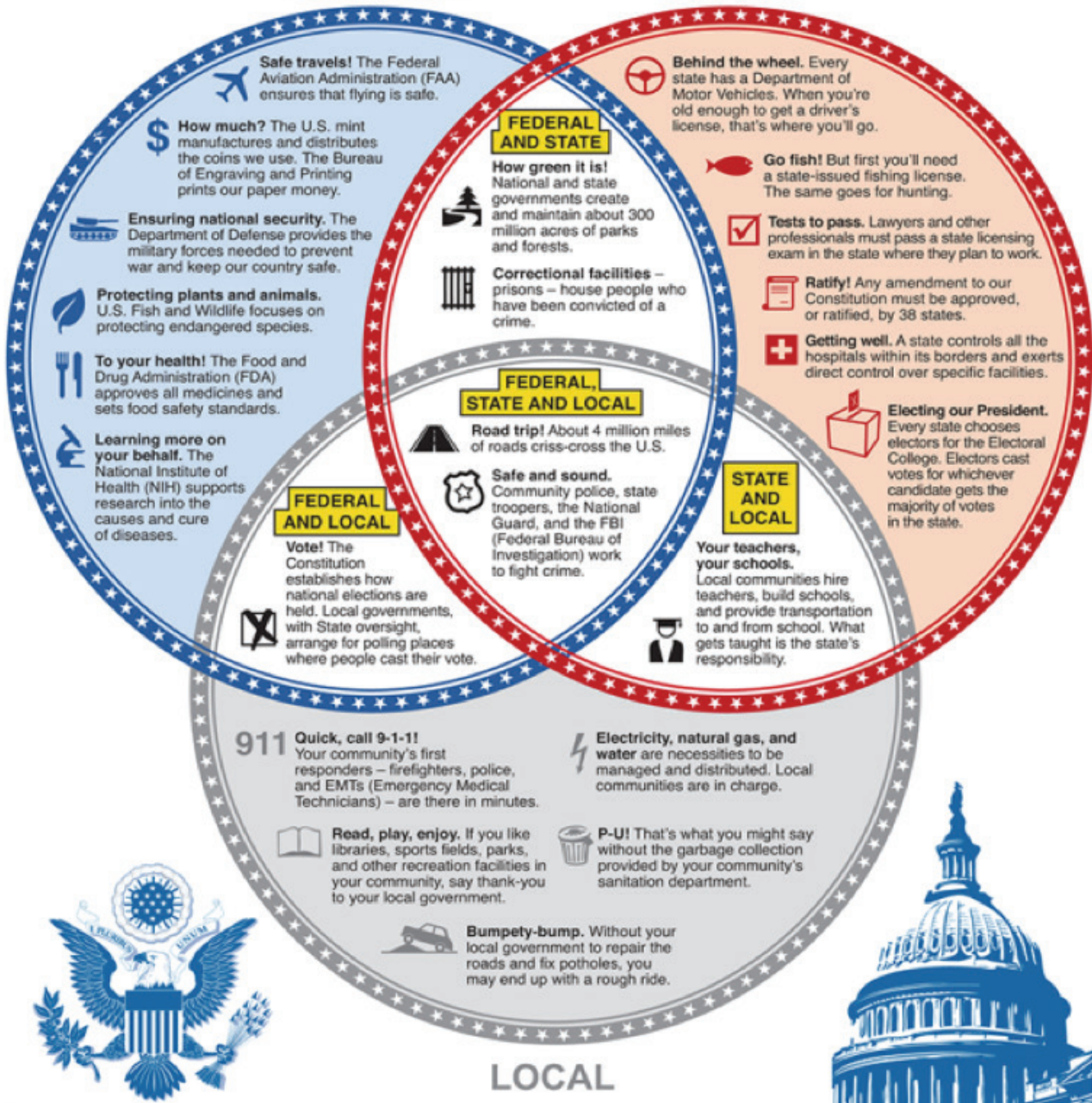
GOVERNMENT WHO TAKES CARE OF WHAT?

Your food is safe. Your state has roads and schools. Your community has parks and police. Government makes these things happen... and more.



FEDERAL

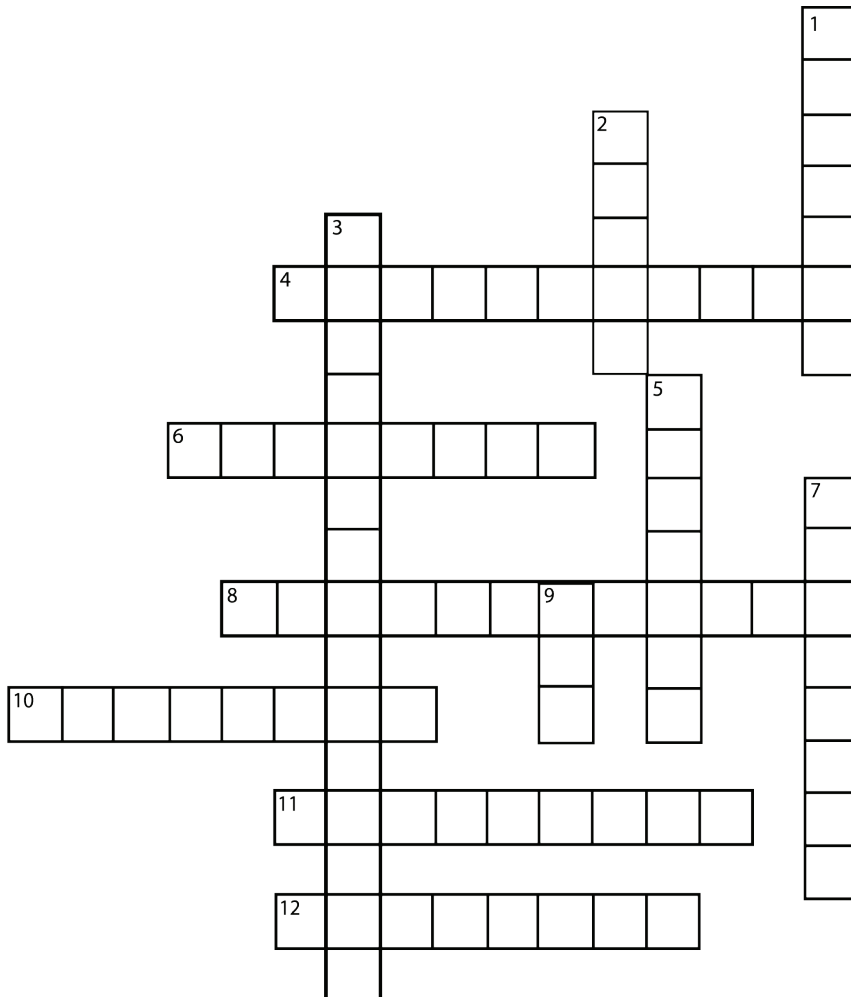
STATE



Handout (d)

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

Complete puzzle from information provided during the Presentation.



ACROSS

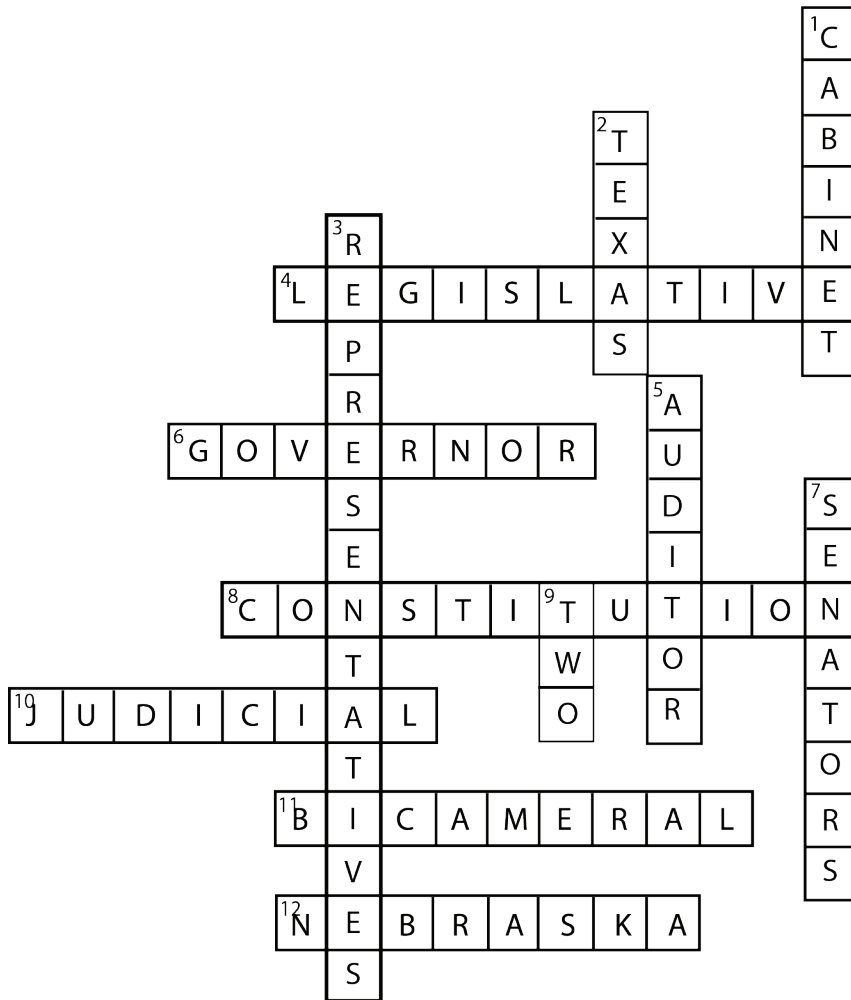
- The General Assembly is some states is also referred to as the _____ branch.
- Who is the head of the state executive branch?
- The State _____ regulates the state.
- The _____ branch of the Federal Government applies the laws.
- _____ means having two chambers or bodies.
- What is the only state that does not have a bicameral legislative branch?

DOWN

- The President of the United States delegates powers to his _____.
- Which state does not have a state treasurer?
- the _____ in each state serves two year terms.
- Who is the state head financial advisor?
- State _____ are member of the legislative branch?
- Most states have _____ tiers of local government.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

Complete puzzle from information provided during the Presentation.



ACROSS

4. The General Assembly is some states is also referred to as the _____ branch.
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8. The State _____ regulates the state.
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7. State _____ are member of the legislative branch?
9. Most states have _____ tiers of local government.

Resources

The Constitution of the United States

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html

Library of Congress

https://loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject:government%2C+law+%26+politics&st=gallery&sb=title_s

U. S. Supreme Court

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/about.aspx>

Learn about Oral Arguments at

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/visitor>

US House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/content/learn/>



Class Activities

1. Listen to Oral Arguments at

http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_audio.aspx

2. Watch a Senate Hearing at

<http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/>

3. Find your representative for US Congress

4. Find your state legislator

5. Watch a court hearing

6. Watch a movie like “To Kill a Mockingbird” and discuss how the movie portrays the judicial branch. Other movies suggested are:

The Dog Lover

12 Angry Men

My Cousin Vinny

Anatomy of a Murder

Erin Brockovich

Chicago

*Inherit the Wind (1960)**

(*Note: Much of the courtroom testimony was taken straight from the trial transcript.)