

NC-SS 5.7.4 Understand how the Constitution is designed to secure our liberty by both empowering and limiting central government and compare the powers granted to citizens, Congress, the president, and the Supreme Court with those reserved to the states.

What is the role of government?

SET THE SCENE What kind of rules do you have at home? How are decisions made? The U.S. Constitution defines the rules and roles for each part of our nation's government. How do the different parts and levels of government work together?

Preview the Lesson

Vocabulary

legislative branch (n.) the part of government that writes and passes laws

Congress (n.) the Senate and the House of Representatives

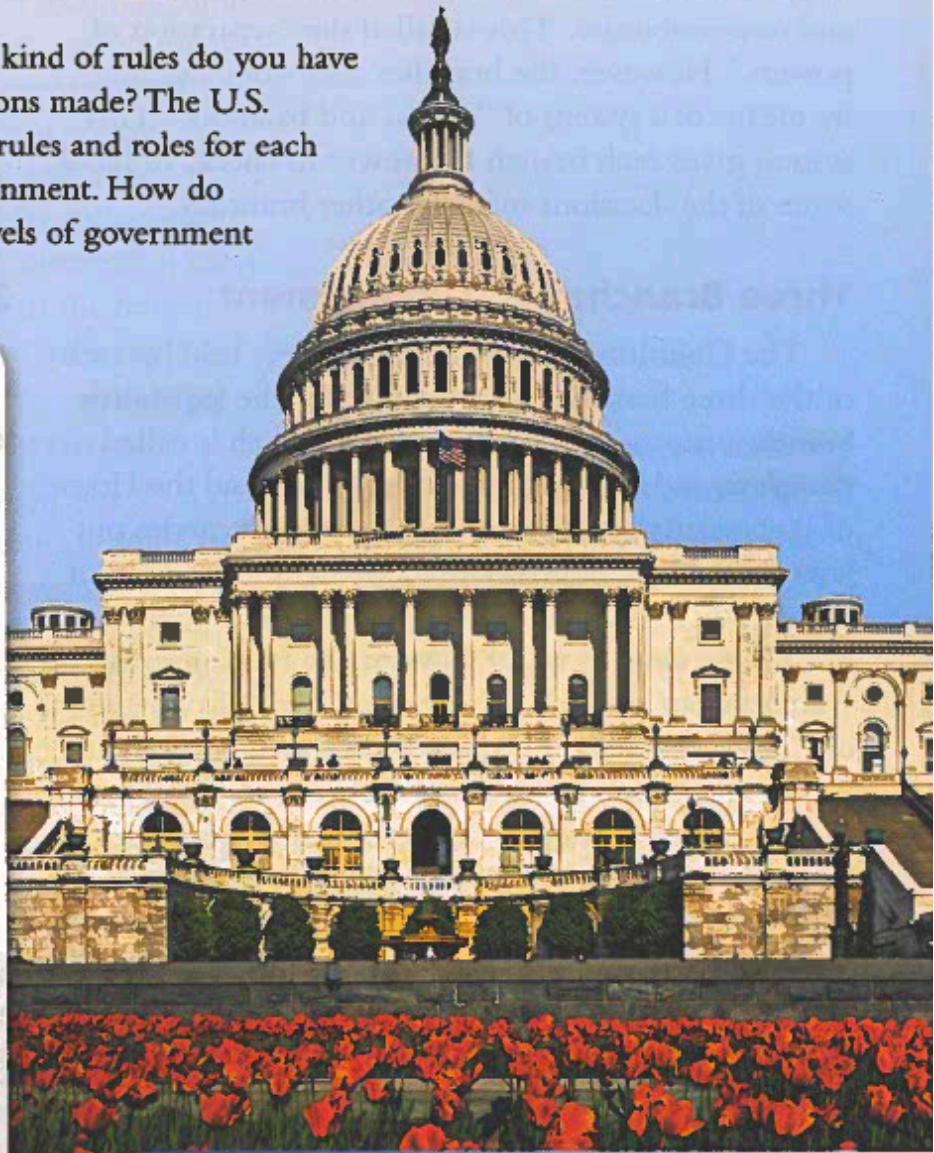
executive branch (n.) the part of government that carries out laws

veto (v.) to reject a bill or law

Judicial branch (n.) the part of government that interprets and applies laws

federalism (n.) a system in which the national government and the states share power

Vocabulary Activity The root word *legis* means "law." Circle the vocabulary word above that has this word as its root. How does knowing the meaning of *legis* help you understand the word's meaning?



Reading: Main Idea and Details

The *main idea* is the most important idea of a paragraph. Writers often state the main idea in a topic sentence. As you read the first section on page 168, underline the topic sentence, which gives you the main idea about the powers of the federal government.



A Balanced Government

The framers of the Constitution did not want the federal government to become too powerful. So they created three branches, or parts, of government, no one of which can have complete control. How does this work? Each branch of government has different powers and responsibilities. This is called the “separation of powers.” However, the branches also work together by means of a system of “checks and balances.” This system gives each branch the power to check, or block, some of the decisions made by other branches.

Three Branches of Government

The Constitution explains the powers held by each of the three branches of government. The **legislative branch** writes and passes laws. This branch is called **Congress**, and it is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The **executive branch** carries out laws passed by Congress. The President is the head of the executive branch. The President cannot make laws but he can **veto**, or reject, laws passed by Congress. Congress can overrule the President’s veto if two-thirds of Congress agrees. The **judicial branch** interprets and applies the laws. The Supreme Court heads this branch. If the justices, or judges, on the Supreme Court decide that a law is against the Constitution, they can overturn it. This means that the law no longer has to be followed.

1. Why did the framers create a federal government with three different branches?

Main Idea and Details

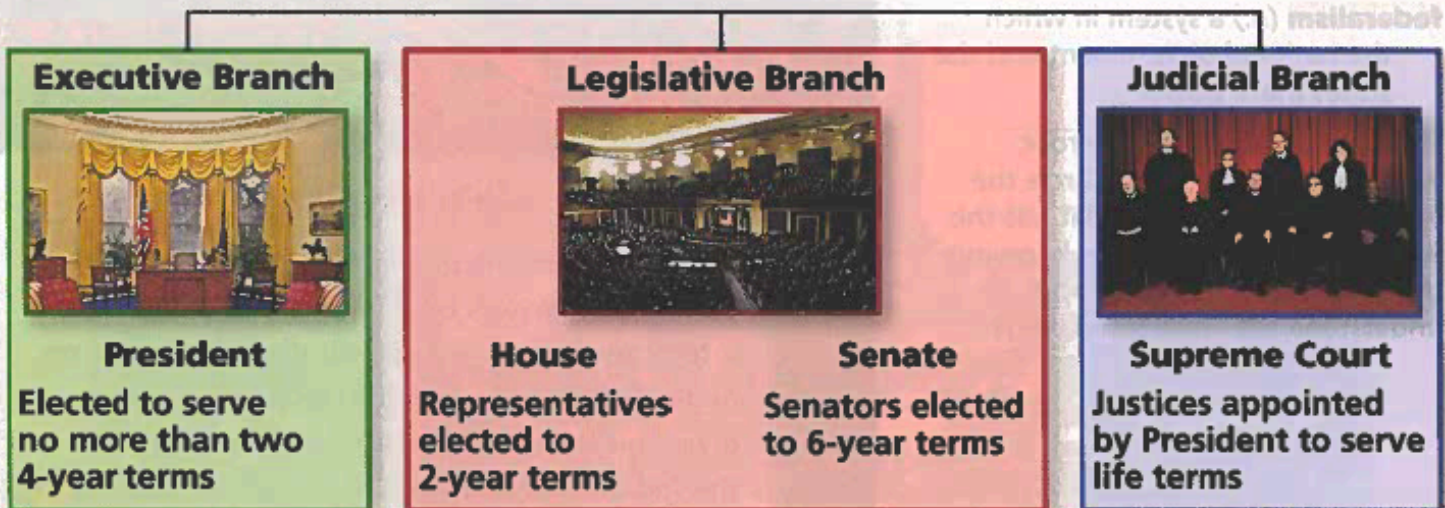


2. What check does Congress have on the powers of the President?

Main Idea and Details



The Federal Government



State and Federal Government


The United States has a form of government called federalism. **Federalism** is a system in which the national government and the states share power. The federal, or national, government has powers that the state governments do not have. For example, only the federal government can declare war, print money, and control foreign trade. But state governments have powers too. They run public schools and control business within the state. Both federal and state governments share some powers, such as collecting taxes. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution states that any powers not specifically given to the federal government belong to the states and to the people.

The Role of Citizens in Government

What powers do U.S. citizens have in our government? It could be said that citizens provide the final check over all three branches of government. This is because citizens have the power to decide who will represent them in the government. They use this power when they vote for the candidates who run for elected positions in the government. When citizens vote, they choose the candidate they feel will best represent their views. That is why voting is an important responsibility of being a citizen.



Citizens play an important role in our state and federal governments by registering, or signing up, to vote.

3.  Draw Conclusions **How are the powers of the states preserved in the Constitution?**



4. **Underline the sentence that explains how U.S. citizens provide the final check over our government.** *Main Idea and Details*

Summary

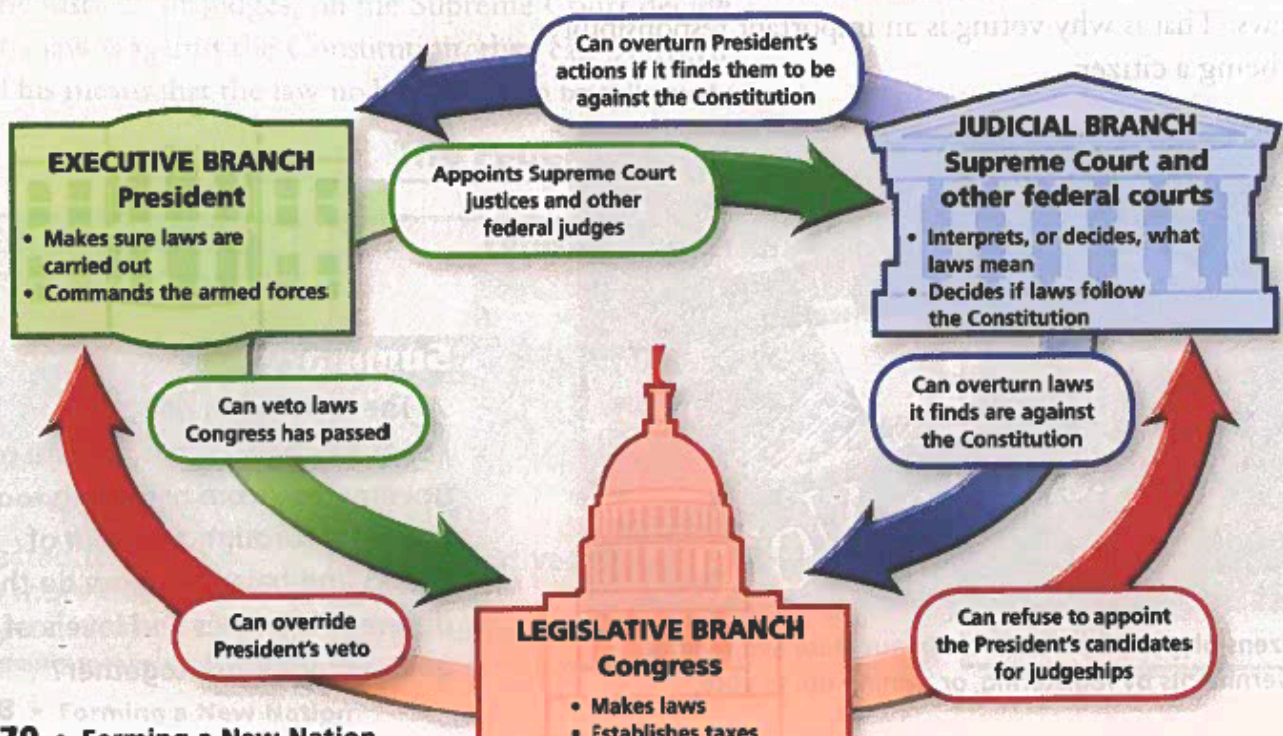
The separation of powers keeps any one branch or level of government from becoming too powerful through a system of checks and balances. How do the different branches and levels of government work together?

Flow Charts

Learn More The Constitution limits the powers of the three branches of government with a system of checks and balances. The flow chart below shows how this system works. Arrows that point away from a branch represent checks that it has on the other branches. Arrows pointing toward a branch represent checks on its power from the other branches. Notice that the powers of each branch are checked in some way by the other branches. Use the flow chart to answer the questions below.

Try It

1. Circle the branch that has the power to appoint Supreme Court judges. *Identify*
2. Place a check mark next to the branch with the power to refuse appointments to the Supreme Court. *Identify*
3. Place stars next to the checks the Judicial Branch has on the other branches' powers to write and carry out laws. *Apply*
4. Explain what might happen if the Supreme Court did not have the power to check the other two branches. *Explain*



Name: _____

H-SS 5.7.5 Discuss the meaning of the American creed that calls on citizens to safeguard the liberty of individual Americans within a unified nation, to respect the rule of law, and to preserve the Constitution.

How do citizens help protect liberty?



Preview the Lesson Vocabulary

suffrage (n.) the right to vote

safeguard (v.) to protect

Vocabulary Activity A *compound word* is a word created by combining two or more words. Draw a vertical line between the two word parts that make up the word *safeguard*. How does knowing the meanings of those two word parts help you understand the meaning of *safeguard*?

People

Susan B. Anthony
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Martin Luther King, Jr.

SET THE SCENE You have learned that the federal government receives its power from the Constitution and the citizens of the United States. This means that citizens have rights. However, they also have responsibilities. How can we, as citizens, help preserve liberty and promote justice for all?



Reading: Draw Conclusions

Remember that when you *draw conclusions*, you form an opinion based on information you have read. As you read the first section on page 172, underline details that help you draw a conclusion about the responsibilities of citizens.





The Responsibilities of Citizens

All U.S. citizens have important responsibilities to their country. The right to vote gives citizens a voice in our country's government. At age eighteen, citizens can register to vote. In order to be an educated voter, it is important to learn about the candidates and discuss the issues. Citizens also have the responsibility to pay taxes. The government raises the money it needs from taxes. By carrying out their responsibilities, citizens help preserve their individual rights and the system of government set up by the Constitution.

Citizens and Laws

Laws provide for the safety and protection of every citizen. Citizens have the responsibility to uphold, or support, these laws for the well-being of all. For example, each citizen must serve on juries when called to do so. However, people also have the right to protest laws they think are unfair. Sometimes people hold demonstrations, or gatherings, to show they disagree with a law. Citizens can also contact elected officials to express their views. One way to do this is by writing or signing petitions.



1. Draw Conclusions **Why is it important for people to carry out their responsibilities as U.S. citizens?**

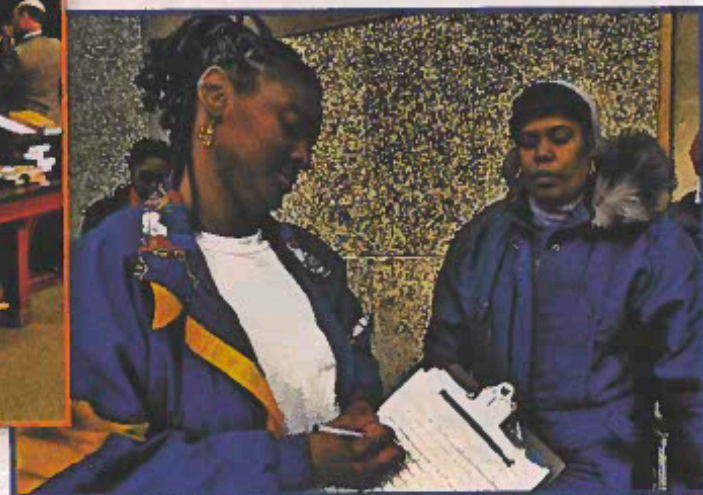


2. **How can citizens protest against laws they think are unfair?**

Main Idea and Details



Citizens help enforce laws by serving on juries (left). Signing petitions is one way citizens can work to create new laws or change laws they think are unfair (below).





Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left) and Susan B. Anthony (right) worked to gain the right to vote for women.

Citizens Work for Reform

The power of citizens to call for reform, or change, can be seen throughout our nation's history. In the 1830s, a spirit of reform swept the United States. Some reformers focused on improving public education.

Others worked to end slavery. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the women's suffrage movement. **Suffrage** is the right to vote. These reforms often required many years of effort. Women finally won the right to vote in all elections when the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Civil Rights movement helped bring equal rights to African Americans. Even though slavery ended by law in 1865, many African Americans were not treated equally. Certain laws, especially in the South, made it difficult for them to vote. Laws also established separate schools for African Americans and unfair rules for using public services.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an important leader of the Civil Rights movement. In 1956, after a year-long boycott, Dr. King forced Montgomery, Alabama, to offer the same public services to all people. In 1963 Dr. King helped organize a huge gathering in Washington, D.C. Its purpose was to push for equal rights for all people, as guaranteed by the Constitution. Congress finally passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made it illegal to treat people differently based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The actions of Dr. King and other reformers show how individual citizens can help **safeguard**, or protect, the liberty of all Americans.

3. Underline two things Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did to win equal rights for all Americans.

Main Idea and Details



In 1965 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., (center) led a march to call for voting reforms for African Americans.

Summary

U.S. citizens have important responsibilities to their country. What are some ways in which citizens can help preserve the Constitution, respect the rule of law, and safeguard liberty?

The Seneca Falls Convention

Learn More Good citizens work to safeguard the rights of all Americans. One way we can do this is to express our thoughts and feelings when we think laws are unfair. Suffrage is one of the most important rights of any citizen, yet women did not always have the right to vote. In July 1848, a group of women and men gathered in Seneca Falls, New York, at the first women's rights convention in the United States. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the organizers, presented her "Declaration of Sentiments." The declaration was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. In it she stated that women should work to obtain the right to vote. Sixty-eight women and thirty-two men signed the Declaration of Sentiments. They were citizens who were willing to take action to protect the rights of all people.

Read the excerpts and answer the questions below.

1. Circle the two words in the Declaration of Sentiments that do not appear in the Declaration of Independence.

Identify

2. Why do you think Stanton modeled her document after the Declaration of Independence? *Analyze*

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

— Declaration of Independence, 1776

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . . ."

— Declaration of Sentiments, 1848



H-SS 5.7.6 Know the songs that express American ideals (e.g., "America the Beautiful," "The Star Spangled Banner").

How does music express American ideals?

SET THE SCENE As you have learned, the United States stands for freedom and equal rights for all. One way to demonstrate these ideals is through music. Today, Americans enjoy many songs that reflect their love for their country and its ideals.

Preview the Lesson

Vocabulary

patriotic (*adj.*) showing support for one's country

national anthem (*n.*) the official song of a nation

Vocabulary Activity The suffix *-ic* means "having the character of." Circle the suffix *-ic* in a word above. Then underline the root word.

People

Francis Scott Key

Reading: Main Idea and Details

Remember, writers often use a topic sentence to express the main idea in a paragraph. As you read the first section on page 176, underline the topic sentence in each paragraph.



1800

1825

1850



1814 Francis Scott Key writes
"The Star Spangled Banner."

Songs That Show National Pride

Americans are **patriotic**, or show support for their country, in many ways. One way Americans show that they are patriotic is through music. Patriotic songs allow us to show our support and love for the United States. In some songs, we sing about the ideals on which our country was founded, such as liberty, justice, and equal rights. In others, we sing about our country's history and natural beauty.

The United States has a rich collection of patriotic songs, many of which you may know. "Hail to the Chief" honors our President. Do you know the song that begins, "My country, 'tis of thee/Sweet land of liberty"? It is Samuel Francis Smith's "America," which praises the freedoms of the United States.

One popular patriotic song describes the natural beauty of our country. In 1893 a teacher named Katharine Lee Bates visited Colorado. Near the top of a mountain peak, she looked around at "the wonder of America" and was inspired to write the poem "America the Beautiful." Her poem was later set to music.

Americans sing patriotic songs to express their love and support for our country.

1. What are two ways patriotic songs allow us to show our love of our country?

Main Idea and Details

America the Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain.
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*



1893

1931 "The Star Spangled Banner" becomes the national anthem of the United States.

"The Star Spangled Banner"

Times of struggle have also inspired patriotic songs. Francis Scott Key wrote the words to "The Star Spangled Banner" during the War of 1812. One night, Key witnessed a British attack on Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, Maryland. During the attack, the sky was filled with British "bombs bursting in air." Yet, the next morning, Key saw the American flag still flying above the fort. He wrote a poem to describe what he had seen. This poem was later set to music. In 1931 Congress made "The Star Spangled Banner" our **national anthem**, or official song of the nation.

The Star Spangled Banner

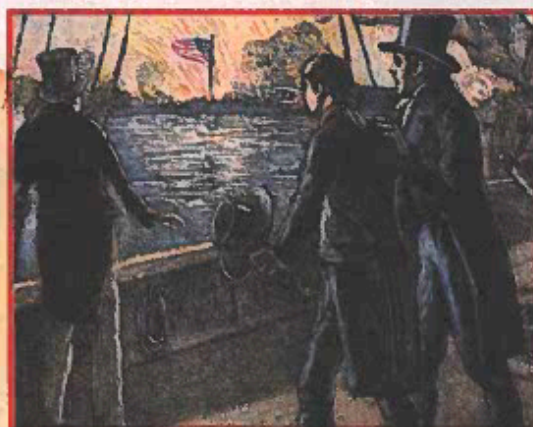
*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last
gleaming?*

*Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the
perilous fight*

*O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly
streaming!*

*And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was
still there.*

*Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*



Francis Scott Key wrote the poem "The Star Spangled Banner" after he saw the American flag still flying after a fierce battle.

2. Draw Conclusions In what ways does "The Star Spangled Banner" express American ideals?

Summary

Patriotic songs express many American ideals. What are some of the ideals we can sing about?

The New Colossus

Learn More In 1875 the building of the Statue of Liberty, a gift to the United States, began in France. The statue symbolized the two countries' friendship and belief in liberty. In 1883 poet Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus" to help raise money to build the statue's pedestal, or base, on an island in New York City's harbor. The poem is a sonnet, or a rhyming poem of fourteen lines. The *colossus* in the title refers to a large statue that stood in the harbor of an ancient Greek island.

In 1903 a plaque with "The New Colossus" was added to the statue's pedestal. This poem gave new meaning to the Statue of Liberty. It described the United States as a place where people from around the world could come to start a new life of freedom. Because of Lazarus's poem, the statue gained new meaning as a symbol for the many immigrants who entered the United States through New York City.

Read the poem's last lines and then answer the questions.

1. Circle the words in the poem that describe the hopes of people who come to America. *Identify*
2. Why do you think Lazarus wrote the poem from the point of view of the Statue of Liberty, using words such as *I* and *me*? *Interpret*

*"... Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

