

Civics and Government Packet Quick Preview

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
The U.S. Constitution is the highest law in the United States. It says how the U.S. government works.
It creates the _____ of government.

CONSTITUTION
The Constitution was written in _____.
Leaders from _____ met in 1787 to write the Constitution. There were _____ delegates of _____.
Chairman of the convention: _____ was elected.

AMENDMENTS
BILL OF RIGHTS
The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They were offered to safeguard the rights of the individual. They listed rights or freedoms that belong to the people. For example, in Article I:
1) Freedom of _____, assembly and petition
2) Right to bear _____ (the right to be armed)
3) Quartering of _____ (no one is forced to house a soldier in your home)
4) Search and Seizure - people have the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects. No warrants shall issue, except on probable cause.
5) Right of accused persons
6) Trial in criminal cases
7) Government cannot take private property or _____ (the use may be used before)

STATE GOVERNMENT

OUR GOVERNMENT
In 1787, the delegates, who had written the Constitution, met in Philadelphia, PA. They are remembered as the Framers.
The new government was called the _____.
The new government was called the _____.
The new government was called the _____.

THE CABINET
The Cabinet is a group of advisors who help the President. It is made up of the heads of the major departments of the executive branch. There are 17 members. The President can add or remove members. The President can also remove members. The President can also remove members.
The Cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of 17 executive departments: the Department of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs.
The President can also add or remove members. The President can also remove members.
The President can also remove members.

STATE GOVERNMENT
Each state has its own government. It is called the _____.
The state government is made up of the _____.
The state government is made up of the _____.

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?
The government is responsible for _____.
The government is responsible for _____.
The government is responsible for _____.

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?
The government is responsible for _____.
The government is responsible for _____.
The government is responsible for _____.

45 page packet at homeschoolnden.com

This packet covers the 3 branches of government, the Constitution and “basic facts” about the U.S., but we’re also going to cover some new material (for us)... how State and Local governments work, what the federal, state and local governments do for us, and what kinds of taxes we pay to help keep the government running.

The image shows three overlapping educational worksheets. The leftmost worksheet is titled "THE U.S. CONSTITUTION" and features a diagram of the three branches of government: Executive (Presidency), Legislative (Congress), and Judicial (Supreme Court). The middle worksheet is titled "CONSTITUTION" and contains a paragraph about the writing of the Constitution in 1787, with several blank lines for student input. The rightmost worksheet is titled "AMENDMENTS" and lists the first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, with blank lines for student input.

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
We the People
 The U.S. Constitution is the highest law in the United States. It says how the U.S. government works.
 It creates the _____ of government:

Presidency
 Congress
 Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
 JUDICIAL BRANCH

CONSTITUTION
 The constitution was written in _____
 Leaders from _____ states met in 1787 to write
 the Constitution. There were _____ delegates at
 the Constitutional Convention. George _____
 was elected chairman of the convention.

We the People
 We the people of the United States, in order to form a
 more perfect union, establish _____
 insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common
 welfare, and secure the blessings of _____
 to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish
 this Constitution for the United States of America.

AMENDMENTS
BILL OF RIGHTS
 The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. These were offered to safeguard the rights of the individual. This is a list of rights or freedoms that belong to the people. For example, it protects:

- 1) Freedom of _____, Assembly and Petition
- 2) Right to Bear _____ (the right to own guns)
- 3) Quartering of _____ — You cannot be forced to have soldiers stay in your home.
- 4) Search and Seizure — people have the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects. No warrants shall issue except on probable cause.
- 5) Right of Accused Persons
- 6) _____ Trial in Criminal Cases
- 7) Rules of common law — If a lawsuit involves property or settlement worth more than \$20, the case may be tried before a jury.
- 8) Protection from excessive penalties
- 9) Other rights of the people — just because it is not mentioned, people have some other fundamental rights which the government must respect.
- 10) Powers kept by states and the people

Cut and Paste (or sorting) Activity

Executive Branch

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the U.S.

President of his Cabinet

Commander in Chief of the armed forces

Negotiates the 115 Cabinet Members

head of state and head of government

Can serve 2 terms or 10 yrs

Must be at least 35 years old

Approves or vetoes federal bills.

responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress

Judicial Branch

Supreme Court

9 Justices

Serve for Life

Confirm or reject Cabinet members

decide whether or not new laws agree with the Constitution

Interpret and apply the laws

Legislative Branch

Congress

House of Representatives

435 Members

at least 1 per state, based on population size

Must be at least 25 years old

Senate

2 from each State

100 Members

Must be at least 30 years old

Write and Pass the Laws

U.S. Government & Civics Unit

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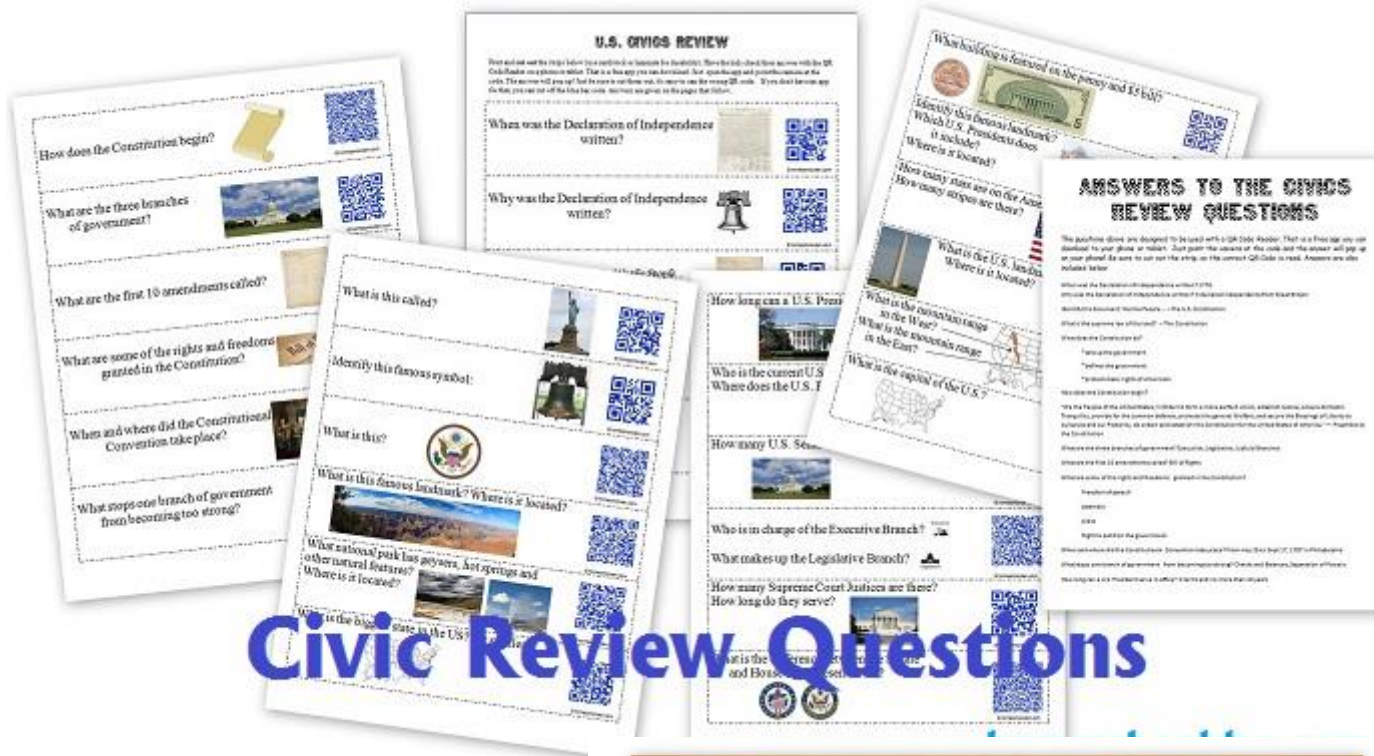
Civics Review Cards

These include questions about government and history such as:

- Why was the Declaration of Independence written?
- What are the three branches of government?
- What are the first 10 amendments called?
- What is the difference between the Senate and the House of Representatives?

Be sure to cut out the individual strips/cards, so the correct QR Code is read. For those who can't or don't want to use the bar codes, you can just ignore those (cut them out) and match them to the answer cards I made (which are included but not shown in the screen shot below).

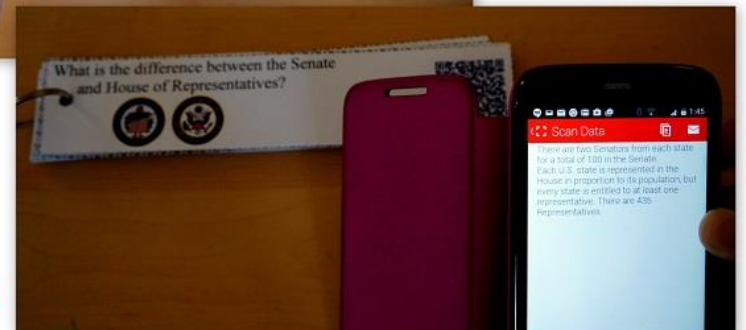




Civics Review Questions



QR Code
Civics Questions



Presidential Cabinet:

I also wanted to go over a few new things this spring. We're going to talk about the **Presidential Cabinet** for the first time. We'll also go over **how a bill becomes law**. This packet includes notebook pages to cover those two topics:

The image shows three overlapping notebook pages. The leftmost page is titled "THE CABINET" and contains text about the cabinet's role and a list of departments. The middle page is also titled "THE CABINET" and features a large oval labeled "The Cabinet" with boxes for names and a diagram of the cabinet's structure. The rightmost page is titled "HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW" and contains a flowchart with ten steps explaining the legislative process. A watermark "homeschoolden.com" is visible at the bottom right.

THE CABINET

The Cabinet is a group of advisers, high ranking officials who are heads of the various departments of the executive branch. There are 15 executive departments and each is headed by a Secretary (such as Secy State, Secretary of Department). Cabinet members advise the President on matters and areas that their particular department is responsible for.

The Cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 executive departments — the Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, and the Attorney General.

If the President were to die, the Vice President would succeed him. The order of succession is:

- Vice President of the United States
- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Education
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Homeland Security

Some other positions that have the status of Cabinet rank include:

- White House Chief of Staff
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Office of Management & Budget
- United States Trade Representative
- United States Mission to the United Nations
- Council of Economic Advisors
- Small Business Administration

THE CABINET

The President appoints people to help and advise him in running the country. There are _____ executive departments.

Fill in as many Cabinet positions as you can:

George Washington's first Cabinet had just _____ secretaries. Three included _____.

Who is the Attorney General?

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

An idea is developed for a new law. Anyone can submit a proposal, but only a member of Congress can introduce it.

The bill is sent to committee and subcommittee. The committee members examine the bill and decide whether to act on it. They hold hearings. If they make changes, they do that in a markup session.

In the House, the bill goes to the Committee on Rules. In both chambers, it is put on a calendar. Then the full chamber debates and votes.

The bill is sent to the other chamber for committee and subcommittee hearings and markup.

The second chamber puts the bill on the calendar. This chamber debates and votes on the bill and then returns it to the first chamber.

The first chamber votes on any changes. If the chambers' versions don't match, a conference committee works out the differences.

Both chambers vote on the compromise. The Speaker and vice president then sign the endorsed version of the bill.

The endorsed version of the bill goes to the president to be signed or vetoed. If not vetoed, the bill becomes law.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

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DESCRIPTION OF THE CABINET POSITIONS

Department of State - the department responsible for international relations

Department of the Treasury - manages federal money by collecting taxes, paying bills and managing currency, public debts, and government accounts

Department of Defense - deals with national security and the US armed forces

Department of Justice - works to enforce federal law and seek just punishment of the guilty. They work to prevent crime, ensuring safety against foreign and domestic threats.

Department of the Interior - manages federal lands and natural resources

Department of Agriculture - aids farmers and manage programs related to food production

Department of Commerce - create jobs and promote economic growth

Department of Labor - responsible for occupational safety, wage and hour standards, unemployment insurance benefits

Department of Health and Human Services - improves health, safety and well-being of Americans

Department of Housing and Urban Development - provides housing and community development assistance, ensure fair and equal housing opportunities

Department of Transportation - oversees highway, air, railroad and other transportation functions

Department of Energy - administers the country's energy policy and safety in handling nuclear material

Department of Education - administers federal assistance to education

Department of Veterans Affairs - administers the programs for veterans and their families

Department of Homeland Security - works to improve the security of the U.S.

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THE CABINET

Match the cabinet position with the description that fits best.

- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Education
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Homeland Security

Department of State	the department responsible for international relations
Department of the Treasury	manages federal money by collecting taxes, paying bills and managing currency, public debts, and government accounts
Department of Defense	deals with national security and the US armed forces
Department of Justice	works to enforce federal law and seek just punishment of the guilty. They work to prevent crime, ensuring safety against foreign and domestic threats.
Department of the Interior	manages federal lands and natural resources
Department of Agriculture	aids farmers and manage programs related to food production
Department of Commerce	create jobs and promote economic growth

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Department of Labor

responsible for occupational safety, wage and hour standards, unemployment insurance benefits

improves health, safety and well-being of Americans

provides housing and community development assistance, ensure fair and equal housing opportunities

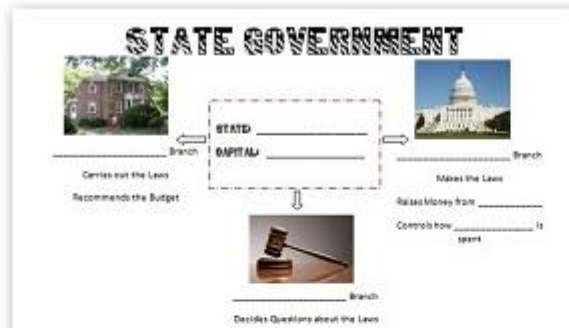
oversees highway, air, railroad and other transportation functions

administers the country's energy policy and safety in handling nuclear material

provides federal assistance to

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What are some of the responsibilities of our federal, state and local governments?



OUR GOVERNMENT

In the United States, we have several government structures in place.

Federal Government: Our federal government is based in Washington, D.C. There are three branches of the federal government --

State Government: We have _____ states in our country. Each state has its own government.

The state governments are modeled after the federal government and they also consist of three branches. In each state, the executive branch is headed by the _____
All 50 states have legislatures, made up of representatives. Most have two chambers: a state house and state senate (similar to the federal government). Each state has a state supreme court which focuses on errors made in lower courts (so it holds no trials).

Local Government: Most local government consist of counties and municipalities. Municipalities can also be called _____

How is the State Government organized?

What do our federal, state and local governments do?

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?

We all benefit from the services of government - federal, state and local governments - for the public.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

- Transportation:**
 - Helps maintain the federal highway system, bridges, and airports. (Federal Highway Administration - part of the Department of Transportation)
 - Makes sure flying is safe (Federal Aviation Administration)
- Money:** Manufactures and distributes coins and paper money. (U.S. Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing)
- Health:** Approves all medicines and sets food safety standards. (Food and Drug Administration, Supervises vaccines used in the control and rates of diseases (National Institute of Health))
- National Security:** Provides the military forces needed to protect war and keep our country safe (Department of Defense)
- Safety:**
 - Protect public safety by ensuring that federal offenders serve time in federal prisons which house people who have been convicted of crimes (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
 - Investigate federal crimes (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- Justice:** Supreme Court, Federal Courts. Federal courts have jurisdiction over civil actions and criminal cases dealing with federal law.
- Post Office:** Establish post offices and mail postage.
- Parks:** Creates and maintains national parks and forest land (such as Yellowstone Grand Canyon, etc.)

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?

	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	STATE GOVERNMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Transportation			
Money			
Health			
Security/Safety			

STATE GOVERNMENT

Transportation: Each state has a Department of Transportation, license plates, makes sure automobiles

Health: Each state controls the hospitals and State Licensing: Levies, accountants and licensing exams in the state where they plan to drive licenses, etc.

Justice: State Supreme Court. Most states have jurisdiction and general jurisdiction.

- Special jurisdictions** courts hear many juvenile cases and lesser criminal cases.
- County, justice of the peace, magistrate or**
- General jurisdiction** courts hear serious

Safety:

- Protect public safety with state correctional facilities.
- State troopers ensure that drivers are following state vehicle laws and regulations.

Parks: Creates and maintains state parks and forest land

Voting: Each state chooses electors for the Electoral College. Electors cast votes for whichever candidate gets the majority of votes in the state.

Education: State education departments are responsible for maintaining educational standards, developing curricula, establishing professional certification, etc. They also manage state and federal grants (5)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

As of 2012, there are more than 30,000 municipal governments and 5,000 counties in the United States. In addition, there are nearly 50,000 school and special districts in the U.S.

What are local governments responsible for?

Transportation: Local government repairs local roads and fix potholes.

Safety - 911

- Local municipal police departments are operated by local governments. Local Police includes municipal, county, tribal, and regional police that derive authority from the local governing body that created it.
- Firefighters
- EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians)

Education: Local communities hire teachers, build schools and provide transportation to and from school.

Libraries: Most funding for public libraries comes from local municipalities, though there are state and federal funding and aid programs that grant libraries money.

Parks: Local parks, sports fields and other recreation facilities are maintained by local community governments.

Public Works: The local sanitation department oversees local garbage collection. Local governments are also responsible for sewers, snow removal, signage, and so forth.

3 Branches of Government:

If you've followed our blog for a while, you know that we circle around and cover this material at least once a year. Each time, review material we covered in the past and go into more depth on new topics. The first time we focused only on the basic facts about the 3 branches of government

Another time, we started going into more depth about the Constitution and how it set up the 3 Branches of Government: the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches.

And then even later, we added in information about the Presidential Cabinet.

Anyway, that's been our strategy over the years. 😊 ~Liesl



THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Constitution is the highest law in the United States. It says how the U.S. government works. It creates the _____ of government.

Executive: President
Legislative: Congress
Judicial: Supreme Court

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution was written by the _____ in 1787. It was signed by _____.

It says how the U.S. government works. It creates the _____ of government.

AMENDMENTS

The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. These were written to protect the rights of the citizens. There are _____ amendments to the Constitution. _____ have been added since the Bill of Rights.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Each state has its own government. It has its own laws and officials. The state government is responsible for _____.

CIVICS

and Government Unit

THE CABINET

The Cabinet is a group of advisors. Each member is the head of a federal department. The President chooses the members. There are 15 members. The President can remove them at any time.

- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor
- Department of Interior
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Homeland Security

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

When was the Declaration of Independence written? _____

Why was the Declaration of Independence written? _____

STATE GOVERNMENT

Each state has its own government. It has its own laws and officials. The state government is responsible for _____.

BILL BECOMES A LAW

The bill goes to the _____ for approval. The _____ can pass the bill. The bill then goes to the _____ for approval. The _____ can pass the bill. The bill then goes to the _____ for approval. The _____ can pass the bill.

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?

The government is responsible for _____.

OUR GOVERNMENT

The government is responsible for _____.

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?

The government is responsible for _____.

WHAT DOES OUR GOVERNMENT DO?

The government is responsible for _____.

CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Head of state and head of government	Must be at least 35 years old	Swears and signs the law
Approves or vetoes federal bills	100 Members	
Members of the Executive branch	435 Members	
Members of the Legislative branch	2 from each State	
Members of the Executive branch	14 years, 1 per state, based on population size	
Members of the Executive branch	Writes and Passes the Law	
Members of the Executive branch	Confirm or reject Cabinet members	

U.S. GOVERNMENT & CIVICS UNIT

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