

# General: 7th Grade WA State History



Mrs. Hacker



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**Unit of Study: Washington State Government**

**Dates: Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Materials: Textbook, Video Clip, Supplemental Reading and Handouts.**

**Essential Question: Distinguish the structure, organization, and limits of government at local, state, and federal levels.**

**Learning Target: I can describe how the US Constitution impacts Washington State.**

<i>Monday, May 18th</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 19th</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 20th</i>	<i>Thursday, May 21st</i>	<i>Friday, May 22nd</i>
<p><b><u>Vocabulary:</u></b></p> <p><b>WA Government see handout for details.</b></p> <p><b><u>Begin vocabulary graphic organizer</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Textbook:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Read pages:</u></b></p> <p><b>410 to 413</b></p> <p><b>Levels of Government</b></p> <p><b>Graphic Organizer.</b></p> <p><b>Use page 410 to complete this assignment.</b></p> <p><b><u>Complete graphic organizer.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Team Meeting:</u></b></p> <p><i>for Social Studies classes at 11:30am in Mrs. Hacker's class</i></p> <p><b><u>Complete vocabulary graphic organizer</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Video Clips:</u></b></p> <p><b>US Constitution And Articles of Confederation</b></p> <p><b>Watch Video Clips and write two summary Paragraphs</b></p> <p><b><u>Complete Paragraphs</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>No School:</u></b></p> <p><b>No School On Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <p><b>Have a Wonderful Weekend</b></p>

## Mrs. Hacker's Teams Links Below:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a8d531d646f7d4d689299ee7a386c4de7%40thread.tacv2/General?groupId=dd3cf3f1-426e-46a6-a684-876e7ab6c704&tenantId=df9a217d-6773-4d17-b577-85dc96078222>

## Mrs. Hacker's Wednesday Meetings on Teams



- *General WA History Meeting at 11:30am on our Microsoft Teams Page.*
- *Accelerated WA History at 12:00pm on our Microsoft Teams Page.*

If you missed the meeting on *Microsoft Teams*, you can view the recap here:

<https://www.loom.com/share/406296a116d546f4bf621c0039c716e2>

If you need help accessing our virtual classroom, please see these links:

- How to login to **Clever Classroom**:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTA4xaNsqaw&feature=youtu.be>
- How to login to **MS Teams this is where our virtual classroom is located**:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cl\\_s8Lo1\\_w&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cl_s8Lo1_w&feature=youtu.be)
- How to access **Office 365 Student Email**:  
<https://www.loom.com/share/81871bb592f743d29622df62fc6a5c89>

*Please email me if you have any questions.*

*Take Care,*

*Mrs. Hacker*

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**General: WA State Government**  
**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**



Define vocabulary term below in this column.	Use in a sentence below in this column.	Draw or Cut/Paste Graphic below in this column.
<b>Government 410</b>		
<b>Republic 410</b>		
<b>Democracy 410</b>		
<b>Federation 410</b>		
<b>Federal System 410</b>		
<b>Citizen 410</b>		
<b>Citizenship 410</b>		

<b>Democratic Republic 410</b>		
<b>Natural Born Citizen 410</b>		
<b>Naturalization 410</b>		
<b>Constitution 412</b>		
<b>Continental Congress 412</b>		
<b>Articles of Confederation 412</b>		

# **General: WA State Government**

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **Washington State Three Levels of Government:**

Use the reading on page 410 to define and illustrate the three levels of government observed in Washington State.

I.

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(Label above the **Highest Level of Government**)

### **Define:**

(Use complete sentences)

**Illustrate this level of government of use a graphic**

# **General: WA State Government**

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **Washington State Three Levels of Government:**

**II.**

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(Label above the **Second Level of Government**)

**Define:**

(Use complete sentences)

**Illustrate this level of government of use a graphic**

# **General: WA State Government**

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **Washington State Three Levels of Government:**

**III.**

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(Label above the **Third Level of Government**)

**Define:**

(Use complete sentences)

**Illustrate this level of government of use a graphic**

## **General: WA State Government**

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Team Meeting at 11:30 and Parts of the Constitution**

**Watch Video Clips and Write Summary Paragraph for Each Video Clip:**

### **I. US Constitution Video Clip:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uihNc\\_tdGbk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uihNc_tdGbk)

**Write Summary:**

**I.**



## **II. Branches of Government Video Clip:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuFR5XBYLfU>

**Write Summary:**

**II.**

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

- **Make-up Day: Complete Missing, Late, Incomplete Work**

**III. Courage in Corsets Women's Suffrage in WA State:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asj-ZfsieBM>

**~Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> No  
School~**

# State Government and Politics

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**G**overnment is a word used to describe the institutions, offices, regulations, and procedures created by people living in a location, region, or country whose purpose is to create laws, offer services, and many other functions. Government can be as simple as a tribal chief or as complex as the modern American democracy.

In Washington, government is experienced at three levels. At the top is the federal government whose decisions affect not only Washingtonians, but all American citizens and residents. Below the federal government is the Washington State government. Washington's government is responsible for laws and policy making that impact residents of Washington and its visitors.

Finally, there are local governments. Local governments consist of both county and municipal, or city, governments. The purpose of this chapter is to survey each level of government, its impact on residents in Washington, and how each of the levels interacts with one another.

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state of the United States of America. As Washington Territory, the area was already part of the United States, but the granting of statehood brought Washington fully into the American government. But what is the American government? At its most basic level the United States of America is a **republic**. By definition, a republic is any government in which there are citizens who are allowed to participate in government. Most often, this occurs through the election of representatives to serve in government offices and positions.

There are numerous types of republics. The United States is a democratic republic. **Democracy** is a political system where residents of a country are entitled to vote. In America, citizens democratically elect people to serve in offices such as the President, Governor, Congress and the like. Once elected, these office holders then decide the laws and policies of the government.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In addition to being a democratic republic, the United States is also a federation. A **federation** is a group of smaller entities that come together to form a larger whole. Currently the American federation consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia. This federation is known as the **federal system**. In the American federal system, there is a national, or federal, government, as well as state and local governments. Just how this system works will be the focus of the remainder of this chapter.

## CITIZENSHIP

The concepts of citizen and citizenship are important to any democracy, especially in the United States. A **citizen** is a person who is recognized to have legal rights, opportunities, and obligations within a country. **Citizenship** entitles a citizen to government services, the protections of the law, and participation in the government. However, citizenship also brings duties such as an obligation to follow the laws and regulations of the government and the potential necessity of serving the government if called upon.

Since a republic, especially a **democratic republic** such as America, is a government in which people participate, citizens are the most important factor in deciding the direction of government. In the United States participation occurs most often through voting, but also may include holding an elected office, working in a government institution, serving in the military, and fulfilling jury duty.

With citizenship playing such a central role in the American democracy and republic, it is important to understand what makes an American citizen. Simply living in the United States does not make a person an American citizen. Citizenship is granted in two ways. First, a citizen can be a **natural born citizen**, meaning that they were born in the United States or to a parent who was an American citizen.

The second way in which citizens are made is through **naturalization**, the process by which a foreign born person may attain citizenship. Naturalization is a lengthy process that can take several years, but once complete, an individual becomes an American



Currently, the United States of America is the world's oldest democracy, having been in existence for well over two hundred years. However as unique and revolutionary as the American government is, democracy was not invented here. Democracies and democratic institutions are quite old and it is difficult to say where the concept began. One of the first widespread attempts at democracy occurred in Athens, Greece during the 400s B.C. While Athens may have been the most democratic state in the ancient world, other places in Greece and the people of Rome experimented with republics in ancient times. In addition, Great Britain, the country that we declared our independence from in 1776, practiced a limited form of democracy and representative government at the time of the American Revolution. The framers of the Constitution were fully aware of these, and many other examples of republics and democracies. They studied them carefully before creating the American government.

### *Defining a Republic ...*

The idea of a republic is almost always associated with democracy, but this is not necessarily the case. Consider the case of China. China considers itself a republic and holds elections. However, Chinese citizens are only allowed to vote on candidates from the Communist Party, thus restricting the voting process. Conversely, many democracies are not republics. For instance, Great Britain is one of the world's most famous democracies. Yet, it is not a republic, but a constitutional monarchy since it has a Queen (or King). These two examples simply highlight that words such as republic or democracy may stand for certain ideas, but how these government systems are applied is what matters the most.



▲ Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.



▲ The Parthenon in Athens, Greece.



▲ The Houses of Parliament in London, England.

### *Becoming an American Citizen ...*

Individuals that wish to become an American citizen but were born outside the United States and had no American parent, can achieve citizenship through the naturalization process. The naturalization process involves several steps. First, the prospective citizen must enter or have entered the United States legally. Secondly, he or she must not have an extensive criminal record both in their previous country and the United States. Next, the individual must live in the United States for an extended period of time. As part of living in the United States, the potential citizen must demonstrate a familiarity with the English language. Finally, an individual can apply to take an exam on American history and government, if it is passed, then he or she is invited to a ceremony and sworn in as an American citizen.

citizen and can participate in the United States' government and enjoy the privileges of citizenship. The government of the United States does not distinguish between those citizens born here or to an American parent and those who became naturalized

citizens. Naturalized citizens enjoy all the rights, privileges, and obligations of natural citizens except one. As the Constitution currently reads only natural born citizens may hold the offices of President or Vice President of the United States.



## CONNECTING TO HISTORY

### The Constitutional Convention ...

**O**n May 25, 1787, fifty-five delegates met in Philadelphia to draft the Constitution.

Of the thirteen original states, only Rhode Island did not send a representative to the convention. It was not easy to craft a constitution to satisfy the needs of all thirteen states. The Constitution may never have been written if not for three men. George Washington, the most famous and respected man in America, served as president of the convention. His reputation gave credibility to the gathering. Benjamin Franklin, a respected intellectual and statesman, lent wisdom and encouragement to the proceedings. But the most important person at the convention was James Madison. Called the "Father of the Constitution," Madison worked tirelessly to create compromises and clauses to satisfy the concerns of all the delegates. Madison's efforts proved successful and on September 17, 1787 the Constitution was completed and ready for presentation to the states. Through the additional work of men such as Alexander Hamilton, the Constitution of the United States was ratified by nine out of the thirteen states by June 21, 1788.



James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin

James Madison  
Benjamin Franklin  
Alexander Hamilton



## THE UNITED STATES' CONSTITUTION

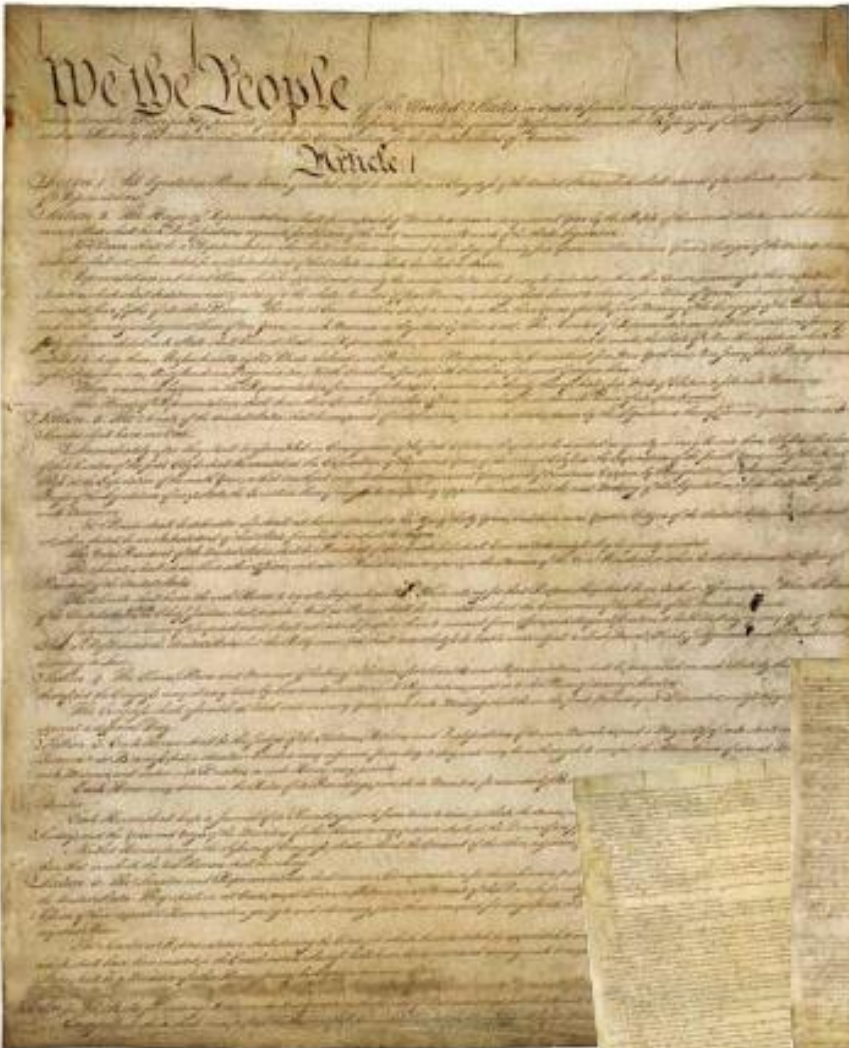
Now that we understand some of the basic concepts and broad ideas that form the backbone of government in the United States, it is possible to discuss the topic more in depth. Any discussion about government must begin with the **United States' Constitution**. The **Constitution** is the guiding document of the American political system and all the offices, institutions, and agencies associated with government today that flow from this work.

It is important to note that the United States has not always had the Constitution. From the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 until 1781, America

was governed by the newly independent colonies and the **Continental Congress**, which formed the national government. In 1781, before the end of the Revolutionary War, the states ratified the **Articles of Confederation**, which were developed by the Continental Congress. In general, the Articles of Confederation provided for a weak national, or central government, with Congress being the most important body. Most of the actual governing duties were left to the individual states.

However soon after adopting the Articles of Confederation, it became clear to the political leaders





◀ The first four pages of the United States Constitution

Original copies of the United States Constitution are stored at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Along with the Constitution there are many other important historical documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, papers from various presidents, literature, and writings by famous Americans. These documents are stored at the National Archives for preservation and so that scholars may study them. Scholars consider it important to study original documents, called primary sources, because they are uncorrupted and have not been changed. Unaltered works give scholars insights into past time periods.



and statesmen of early America that a new document was needed to provide a better form of government for the United States of America. Thus, in 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia from May until September to create and negotiate a new document to establish the guiding principles of American government.

The **Constitutional Convention** was presided over by George Washington and attended by the likes of Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison, who ended up as the chief advocate of the document. Today, the Constitution is considered a sacred document and a central

component of the American way of life. But back in 1787 it was a revolutionary work and its every word and paragraph were argued and negotiated between the attending delegates. After four months of debate, a document was produced and sent to the states for ratification. In June 1788, the Constitution was ratified by enough states to become the law of the land. In 1789, the first United States Congress and the first American President, George Washington, were sworn in marking the beginning of government under the Constitution.