

In this document, you will find the key words and their associated definitions for American Government.

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| Unit 2: Foundations and Constitution |
| Lesson 2 | **African religions** – a broad term acknowledging the many different religious beliefs enslaved people brought to the United States**Catholics** – the members of a Christian religious group that believes that the Catholic Church with the pope as its leader on Earth is the only true church**Christian** – a member of a religious group that believes in the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ**colony** – a country that is settled and governed by another country far away**constitutional democracy** – a government whose power is limited by a constitution**constitutional monarchy** – a government in which a monarch (for example a king or queen) shares power with a constitutionally organized government**corporate colony** – the land granted to inhabitants as a corporate body**dictator** – the leader of a dictatorship**dictatorship** – a government that is run by one powerful leader who rules and controls people using force and intimidation**English Bill of Rights** – part of an invitation from Parliament to seat King William and Queen Mary as the new monarchs after King James II had been overthrown that required them to limit their own power and to extend many civil rights to the English people**English common law** – English law originating from judicial decisions based on custom and precedent**Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** – a document that established rules for governing**Jews** – the members of a religious group that traces its religious beliefs back to historic Israel and the Hebrew people of Abraham**limited government** – a government that has limited powers based on laws and the consent of the people**lord proprietor** – a person appointed to oversee the business of a proprietary colony on behalf of a higher sovereign**Magna Carta** – a royal charter signed in 1215 by King John that offered a group of barons protection to practice their religion, protection from illegal imprisonment, and the right to swift justice in legal affairs**Mayflower Compact** – a document drafted by original settlers of the Plymouth Colony that created a system of lawmaking**military coup** – a sudden, often violent takeover of a government by military force**monarchy** – a government that is run solely by a king, queen, or emperor, usually based on heredity**Parliament** – the governing body in England with the highest authority on legislative matters that ultimately represents the people**proprietary colony** – the land owned by an individual or family in colonial America**protectorate** – a state protected by another; a colony that retains some sovereignty**Protestant** – a Christian who broke away from the Roman Catholic Church, but still adhered to the Bible**Puritans** – the members of an English Protestant group in New England that sought to simplify the religious traditions and practices of the Church of England**Royal Charter of 1663** – a document granted by King Charles II that allowed Rhode Island settlers to govern their own colony**royal colony** – a colony governed by direct monarchial rule**self-government** – a government elected by the people**U.S. Bill of Rights (1791)** – the first 10 Amendments of the U.S. Constitution that limit the power of the U.S. government over the U.S. people |
| Lesson 3 | **Anti-Federalists** – the individuals who were opposed to the adoption of the Constitution**Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**Articles of Confederation (1781–1789)** – the first constitution of the U.S. that provided for all governmental power to be vested in a single institution, the Congress**bill** – a new proposed law**Bill of Rights (1791)** – the first 10 amendments of the Constitution, which limit the power that the U.S. government has over the U.S. people**checks and balances** – the power and the ability to check the other branches given to each one of the three branches to ensure that no one section of the government could obtain excessive unchecked power**Constitution** – a document that provides the legal basis for the United States of America**Declaration of Independence (1776)** – the pronouncement by the U.S. colonies formally declaring themselves independent of Great Britain**Enlightenment philosophers** – the men and women who wrote about the ideas of a government that is run by and for the people, during the Enlightenment Era in Europe**executive branch** – the branch of government that enforces laws, consisting of the president, a cabinet appointed by the president, and various agencies and advisors**Federalists** – the individuals who supported the adoption of the Constitution**framers** – the writers of the Constitution**grievance** – a wrong considered as grounds for complaint; something believed to be inequitable and that causes distress**John Locke (1632–1704)** – an English political philosopher known for his work concerning natural rights. His best-known work is Two Treatises of Government (1689). His ideas are considered the foundation of American political thought**judicial branch** – the branch of government that interprets laws, consisting of the U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system**legislative branch** – the branch of government that passes laws, consisting of the two houses of Congress: the Senate and the House of Representatives**monarchy** – a government that is run solely by a king, queen, or emperor, usually based on heredity**natural right** – a right that is not dependent on the laws of government and is inalienable**popular sovereignty** – the authority of the government is given by the consent of the people**republic** – a government in which people select leaders to represent them**separation of powers** – the division of responsibilities between different branches of government to help keep one branch from becoming more powerful than another**social contract** – an agreement among members of a society to give up some individual freedoms to the government in exchange for the government protecting their natural rights**Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)** – an English political philosopher known for his work concerning the social contract and natural law. His best-known work is Leviathan (1651)**three-fifths compromise** – an agreement between the northern and southern states that three out of every five enslaved people would be counted to determine taxation and representation in the House of Representatives**tyranny** – a cruel, harsh, and unfair government in which one person or a small group of people holds power |
| Lesson 4 | **authoritarian government** – a government that controls virtually everything about a country other than possibly a social organization such as a religion; it is not limited by a constitution, the rule of law, or elections, and typically, it would be run by one or a few individuals**civil society** – a civil society creates institutions dedicated to furthering the public goods or benefits to the society by working with government and business interests**concurrent powers** – the powers that are shared by the national and state governments**delegated powers** – the powers given to the federal government by the Constitution**democra**cy – a government run by the people**democratic system of government** – a system in which the people have the power to rule and government officials are selected through free and fair elections, constitutional limitations on government actions, and individual freedom of thought and action**direct democracy** – a government that allows citizens to vote on important matters**emergency powers** – the additional powers that can be exercised by the executive or legislative branch during a declared state of emergency**Enlightenment** – an intellectual and philosophical movement that reshaped the views of Europe about government in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries**enumerated powers** – the powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution**federalism** – a system of government in which the same territory is controlled by two levels of government with one overarching national government**fundamental** – basic or central**impeachment** – a charge of a government official with misconduct**inalienable** – not capable of being taken away or denied**individualism** – a social theory that favors freedom of action for individuals over collective or state control**judicial branch** – the branch of government that interprets laws, consisting of the U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system**natural law** – the idea that there are forms of law that exist by themselves in nature, regardless of whether people want to believe in them or not. Unlike other forms of law that have been agreed on by society, people cannot go against natural laws. Human rights are a part of natural law**natural rights** – rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and cannot be taken away**pluralism** – the idea that many interests ought to be free to complete for influence over the government and its policies**probable cause** – the belief by a reasonable person that it is more likely than not that a crime has been or is being committed**representative democracy** – a government in which people elect representatives to make decisions for them**reserved powers** – the powers that are kept by the states; these are protected by the Tenth Amendment**rule by law** – the government does not apply the law equally, and leaders are above the law**rule of law** – the restriction of the arbitrary use of government power based on well-defined and established laws**social contract** – an agreement among members of a society to give up some individual freedoms to the government in exchange for the government protecting their natural rights**social democracy** – a democratic form of government that has socialist and capitalist characteristics**state of nature** – a time or place with no government**theocracy** – a government run by a religious leader**totalitarian government** – a government in which a leader tries to control all aspects of public and private life**unconstitutional** – when a law or act is not in accordance with the protections of the U.S. Constitution**universal** – applying to all |
| Lesson 5 | **absolute monarchy** – a government in which a monarch (for example, a king or queen) does not share power with a constitutionally organized government**Bleeding Kansas** – a small civil war in the Kansas territory concerning a vote about entering the United States as a free or slave state**cons**ent – an agreement**Declaration of Independence** – the pronouncement by the U.S. colonies formallydeclaring themselves independent of Great Britain**democracy** – a system of government where the members of society have the ability to make policy decisions for the whole of the society**direct democracy** – a government that allows citizens to vote on important matters**divine right of kings** – the belief that kings received their absolute power from a higher authority**initiative petition** – a process by which citizens can make public policy by circulating a petition, gaining an appropriate number of signatures, and then forcing a vote on a specific question or proposition**Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)** – a congressional act, based on the concept of popular sovereignty, that gave citizens in the Kansas and Nebraska territories the right to vote on if they should enter the United States as a free or slave state**limited government** – a government that has limited powers based on laws and the consent of the people**natural rights** – the rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and are inalienable**nullify** – to cancel or to make legally void**popular sovereignty** – the authority of the government is given by the consent of the people**recall** – the ability for registered voters in some states to remove elected officials from office**referendum** – a general vote by citizens on a single political question**referendum** – the ability for voters to accept or repeal legislative action**representative democracy** – a government in which people elect representatives to make decisions for them**republic** – a government in which people select leaders to represent them**republican form of government** – (also known as a republic) a government in which people select leaders to represent them**social contract theory** – the idea that people form governments for the protection of their natural rights and thus give up their ability to do as they please**sovereignty** – independent, autonomous authority**tyranny of the majority** – a situation in which in democracies the majority of voters can pass laws and limit the rights of a minority of voters |
| Lesson 6 | **Anti-Federalist** – the individuals who were opposed to the adoption of the Constitution**Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**Articles of Confederation (1777)** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**bicameral** – consisting of two legislative houses**Civil Rights Act of 1964** – law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**Continental Congress (1774)** – a meeting of delegates from the 13 colonies who put forth the Declaration of Independence and formally declared independence from England**Declaration of Independence (1776)** – the pronouncement by the American colonies formally declaring themselves independent of Great Britain**Declaration of Sentiments (1848)** – a declaration made at the Seneca Falls Convention that women are equal to men and should be given equal rights**Enlightenment** – a European intellectual movement in the 1600s and 1700s that focused on the concepts of God, humankind, nature, and reason**faction** – a small, organized, dissenting group**Fifteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted Black American men the right to vote**Fourteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted Black Americans citizenship**Frederick Douglass (1817–1895)** – an American abolitionist, orator, writer, statesman, and author of the speech “What to the Slave Is the 4th of July?”**Great Compromise** – a compromise accepted during the Constitutional Convention that developed the framework for the U.S. Congress; also known as the Connecticut Compromise**House of Representatives** – the lower house of the U.S. Congress that proportionally represents the states based on population; includes 435 members**Indian Citizenship Act (1924)** – an act that granted Indigenous Americans citizenship**natural rights** – the rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and that are inalienable**New Jersey Plan** – a proposal made during the Constitutional Convention calling for a unicameral legislative branch based on equal representation for each state**Nineteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted women the right to vote**salutary neglect** – the unofficial policy in the seventeenth century that allowed the American colonies to have their own form of government as long as they remained profitable and loyal to the British**Senate** – the upper house of the U.S. Congress that represents the states based on equality; includes two members from each state for a total of 100 members**Seneca Falls Convention (1848)** – the first women’s rights convention in the United States**social contract** – an agreement among members of a society to give up some individual freedoms to the government in exchange for the government protecting their natural rights**The Federalist Papers (1788)** – a series of essays written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison in defense of the Constitution**Thirteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that ended slavery**Thomas Jefferson (1743 –1826)** – an American statesman and philosopher credited with being the primary author of the Declaration of Independence**Three-fifths Compromise** – an agreement between the northern and southern states that three out of every five enslaved people would be counted to determine taxation and representation in the House of Representatives**Virginia Plan** – a proposal made during the Constitution Convention calling for a bicameral legislative branch with membership in both houses based on a state’s population |
| Lesson 7 | **Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**checks and balances** – a constitutional principle that allows each branch of the government to check one another to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful**constitutional monarchy** – a government in which a monarch (for example, a king or queen) shares power with a constitutionally organized government**Continental Congress** – a group of representatives who worked together to lead the 13 colonies through the revolutionary period in the 1770s**Declaration of Independence (1776)** – the pronouncement by the U.S. colonies formally declaring themselves independent of Great Britain**loose constructionism** – the legal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution that goes beyond the text and allows for a broader definition of the Framers’ intent**natural rights** – the rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and that are inalienable**Shays' Rebellion** – an armed uprising led by Daniel Shays that occurred between 1786 and 1787 in Massachusetts over debt, tax policies, and economic hardships**social contract** – an agreement among members of a society to give up some individual freedoms to the government in exchange for the government protecting their natural rights**strict constructionism** – the legal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution that uses the text only to determine the Framers’ intent**U.S. Constitution (1787)** – the framework of American government complete with rights, powers, and responsibilities of the individual and of the state and national levels of government**unicameral** – a one-house legislature |
| Lesson 8 | **amendment** – a change or addition to the Constitution**article** – a numbered part, or section, of the Constitution**Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**Bill of Rights** – the first 10 amendments of the Constitution that limit the power that the U.S. government has over the U.S. people**Brown v. Board of Education** – a landmark Supreme Court case that rejected the doctrine of separate but equal and led to a policy of integration**checks and balances** – a system in which one institution of government can check or counteract another institution**commerce clause** – a clause in the Constitution that gives Congress the power to regulate interstate and foreign trade**concurrent powers** – the powers that are shared by the national and state governments**delegated powers** – the powers given to the national government by the Constitution**devaluation** – the reduction of worth or value in currency**domestic** – relating to or existing inside a particular country**executive branch** – the branch of government that enforces laws, consisting of the president, a cabinet appointed by the president, and various agencies and advisors**federalism** – a constitutional division of power between national and regional governments**grievance** – a wrong considered as grounds for complaint; something believed to be inequitable and that causes distress**impeach** – a charge of an officeholder with misconduct**impeachment** – the equivalent of charging a president with actions that could lead to their removal**judicial branch** – the branch of government that interprets laws, consisting of the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal court system**legislative branch** – the branch of government that passes laws, consisting of the two chambers of Congress**political gridlock** – a stalemate that occurs when the government is unable to act or pass laws because rival parties control different branches of government and are unable to compromise**Preamble** – the introduction to the Constitution that explains the purpose of the document**ratification** – a formal approval**reserved powers** – the powers that are kept by the states; these are protected by the Tenth Amendment**separation of powers** – the division of responsibilities between different branches of government in order to help keep one branch from becoming more powerful than another**supremacy clause** – the clause in the U.S. Constitution that states the Constitution and federal laws that follow the Constitution are the supreme law of the land**Tenth Amendment** – the part of the Constitution that stated the powers not given to the national government, nor denied to the states, were left to the states**tyranny** – cruel, harsh, and unfair government in which one person or a small group of people holds power |
| Lesson 9 | **Age Discrimination in Employment Act** – a law passed in 1967 that prohibits employment discrimination against people 40 years and older**Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the U.S. following the Declaration of Independence; ratified in 1781**capitalism** – a system of social organization in which there is a free market with a limited role of government**Compromise of 1850** – a package of five laws passed by Congress relating to the issue of slavery and territorial expansion that included admitting California to the Union as a free state, allowing New Mexico and Utah to vote on the issue of slavery, defined the Texas-New Mexico boundaries, and amended the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850**Equal Pay Act of 1963** – the act signed by President John F. Kennedy that attempted to abolish gender pay differences**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** – a government organization created in the aftermath of the Great Depression to better regulate banking procedures**Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** – an independent regulatory agency that enforces civil antitrust and consumer protection laws**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** – the government agency responsible for protecting consumers from unsafe food, medicines, and nutritional supplements; often abbreviated as FDA**food stamp program** – the United States government program that provides financial assistance to purchase food**free-rider problem** – the cost of public goods that is distributed throughout society in the form of taxation but isn’t paid equally by everyone who uses these resources**Geneva Convention** – an international agreement among nations that governs the treatment of prisoners of war and wounded soldiers**Great Depression** – a period of severe economic downturn beginning in 1929 and lasting through the 1930s, leading to high levels of unemployment and poverty in America and the world**gross pay** – the amount employees earn before taxes, benefits, and other payroll deductions are withheld from their wages**guns versus butter** – the economic tension resulting from competing demands of creating a strong national defense or addressing domestic needs**Industrial Revolution** – the period marked by transition from an agrarian economy to one based in manufacturing**Interstate Commerce Act** – a law addressing the unrestricted trade among states**Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)** – a congressional act, based on the concept of popular sovereignty, that gave White male citizens in the Kansas and Nebraska territories the right to vote on whether they should enter the United States as a free or slave state**laissez-faire economy** – an economy in which government does not interfere**market economy** – an economy that uses supply and demand and profit motives to drive prices and availability**Medicaid** – the federal public health insurance program for low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities**Medicare** – the federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older and younger people receiving Social Security disability benefits**Missouri Compromise of 1820** – a legislative action that admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state to the Union, while establishing an East to West line along the 36th parallel diving the nation to contain slavery to the southern portion of the country**monopoly** – the exclusive possession or control of the supply of or trade in a commodity or service**National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)** – an act established in 1935 to guarantee private sector employees the right to organize unions and use collective action to achieve improvements in the work environment and wages**New Deal** – a series of government laws and regulations enacted after 1932 to address the effects of the Great Depression**nonexcludable** – the goods that society ensures are accessible to everyone**nonrivalrous** – the goods for which people do not compete**price control** – a limit on how much a company can charge for a product or service**private good** – a product or service that is scarce and not financed through taxation**privatize** – the shift of public goods from societal ownership to private ownership motivated by profit**Progressive Era** – an era during the late 1800s and early 1900s in the United States where there was social, economic, and political expansion; reformers of this time were known as progressives**public good** – a product or service made accessible to everyone without profit**robber-baron** – a titan of industry who sought to control all facets of production of specific goods through monopolies and trusts during the late 1800s**scarcity** – the demand for a good or service that is greater than the availability of the good or service**Sherman Antitrust Act** – a law passed in 1890 aimed at preventing the formation of trusts and at promoting free competition**Social Security** – a federal insurance program that provides benefits to retired people and those who are unemployed or have a disability**Social Security Act** – a law establishing financial protection for Americans in retirement and with disabilities**socioeconomic status** – an individual or group’s placement within society measured through various methods, including education, income, and professional occupation**subsistence farming** – a system that occurs when farmers grow crops to meet their own needs and the needs of their families for survival without a focus on sales or surplus**supply and demand** – the amount of a product that can be produced compared to consumer demand that results in a price**tariff** – a tax on imported goods**trust** – a large group of business interests acting together to promote and maintain economic power**Works Progress Administration** – a Great Depression-era program designed to create jobs through the construction of infrastructure projects |
| Lesson 10 | **Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise** – a compromise between the North and the South relating to interstate commerce, the slave trade, and taxation**Electoral College** – a compromise between big states and small states as well as between the North and South relating to the election of the president**Great Compromise** – a compromise between highly populous states and less populous states dealing with representation in Congress**Three-Fifths Compromise** – a compromise that related to representation in Congress and taxation |
| Lesson 11 | **absolute monarchy** – a government in which a monarch (for example, a king or queen) does not share power with a constitutionally organized government**amendment** – a change or addition to the Constitution**Anti-Federalists** – the individuals who were opposed to the adoption of the Constitution**bill of rights** – a protection for the rights and liberties of the people**Bill of Rights (1791)** – the first 10 amendments of the Constitution, which limit the power that the U.S. government has over the U.S. people**constitutional monarchy** – a government in which a monarch (for example, a king or queen) shares power with a constitutionally organized government**Declaration of Independence (1776)** – the document formally declaring the U.S. colonies independent from Great Britain**delegated power** – the powers that are assigned to the national government based on the language in the Constitution**Eighth Amendment** – amendment to the U.S. Constitution that bans cruel and unusual punishments as well as excessive bail and fines**English Bill of Rights (1689)** – part of an invitation from Parliament to seat King William and Queen Mary as the new monarchs after the overthrow of King James II, which required them to limit their own power and to extend many civil rights to the English people**Federalists** – the individuals who supported the adoption of the Constitution**Fifth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a grand jury, prohibiting trials for the same crime twice, preventing self-incrimination, and prohibiting the taking of private property without compensation**First Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects religious liberty and freedom of expression such as speech**Fourth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people from unreasonable searches**grievance** – a wrong considered as grounds for complaint; something believed to be inequitable and that causes distress**Miranda v. Arizona** – a U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that suspects must be advised of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney**Miranda warning** – the rights notification given by police that came from a U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that suspects must be advised of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney**natural rights** – rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and are inalienable**Ninth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects the individual’s unspecified rights not listed in the U.S. Constitution**Parliament** – a governing body in England with the highest authority on legislative matters and that ultimately represents the people**reserved powers** – the powers that are kept by the states; these are protected by the Tenth Amendment**Second Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects the individual and state rights to own weapons for the purpose of creating militias**Seventh Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects the individual’s right to a jury trial in civil matters**Sixth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a speedy and public trial, requiring an impartial jury, identifying the specific crime committed, making witness testimony public, and providing a lawyer for the accused**social contract** – an agreement among members of a society to give up some individual freedoms to the government in exchange for the government’s protection of their natural rights**Supreme Court** – the highest court in the federal court system that determines if laws and executive actions are constitutional when they are challenged**Tenth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects the states’ unspecified rights not listed in the U.S. Constitution**Third Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects privacy and property by prohibiting the placement of soldiers in private homes**U.S. Bill of Rights** – the first 10 amendments of the Constitution which limit the power that the U.S. government has over the U.S. people**United States Constitution (1787)** – framework of American government complete with rights, powers, and responsibilities of the individual and of the state and national levels of government**West Virginia v. Barnett** – a Supreme Court case that ruled in favor of students who refused to recite the Pledge of Allegiance by declaring a state law requiring the pledge as unconstitutional |
| Lesson 12 | **amendment** – the formal act of changing or adding to the Constitution**commercial speech** – a form of expression that relates to business activities**defamation** – a form of expression that damages someone's reputation**due process clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution that says the state must recognize the legal rights of individuals and treat them fairly**fighting words** – a form of expression intended to provoke violence from another person**fiscal federalism** – the process by which the national government gives state and local governments grants while specifying conditions with which those state and local governments must comply**Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause** – the clause that prohibits states from discriminating**hate speech** – a form of expression that displays disdain for a particular group based on race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or some other characteristic**libel** – a form of defamation that is in print, such as in a book, newspaper, or on a website**obscenity** – a form of expression that is sexual in nature and considered by most individuals to be lewd or inappropriate**petition** – a form of expression that involves communicating preferences to government officials**prior restraint** – a form of censorship where the government prohibits the publication of things that it finds objectionable**sedition** – a form of expression that encourages the violent overthrow of a government**selective incorporation** – the process by which parts of the Bill of Rights have been applied to the states**slander** – a form of defamation that is spoken, such as gossip or spreading rumors**symbolic speech** – a form of expression that uses symbols to communicate instead of words |
| Lesson 13 | **Bill of Rights** – the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution that protect individual rights**block grants** – federal government money given to states with which states have flexibility in how the money will be spent**Brown v. Board of Education** – a landmark Supreme Court case that rejected the doctrine of separate but equal and led to a policy of integration**categorical grants** – federal government money given to states with which states have little flexibility in how the money will be spent**checks and balances** – a system in which one institution of government can check or counteract another institution**civil liberties** – the protections that individuals have against arbitrary government action**civil rights** – the protections for social cleavages against discrimination**commerce clause** – gives congress the power to regulate interstate and foreign trade**compelling government interest** – an interest relating to some type of critical governmental function or purpose**cooperative federalism** – period (1930–1980s) of federalism in which the national and state governments worked together to solve problems, under the leadership of the national government**direct democracy** – the idea that people help create public policy by directly voting on laws**divided government** – a situation that occurs when one political party controls the presidency and another party controls one or both houses of Congress**dual federalism** – period (1790–1930) of federalism in which the national government and state governments were relatively equal in power**equal protection clause** – the part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the government cannot deny individuals equal protection under the law**expressed powers** – those powers that are explicitly stated in the Constitution**faction** – a group of people who are pursuing their own self-interest**federalism** – a division of power between the national and state governments**federation** – a political system in which there are two levels of government: a national government and various regional governments**implied powers** – the powers derived from the Necessary and Proper Clause**liberal democracy** – a type of political system that allows majority views to govern while at the same time protecting minority views and minority groups**majority rule** – the idea that the views of the majority of the population should be used as the basis for laws**necessary and proper clause** – the section of the Constitution that allows Congress to do what is “necessary and proper” to carry out the power given to it specifically by the Constitution**new federalism** – a period (1980s to the present) of federalism in which some power was returned to state governments**parliamentary system** – a system of government where the executive leader is selected from the legislature**presidential system** – a system of government where the legislative and executive branches are separate and the people select the executive**republic** – a type of government in which people exercise power through elected representatives**reserved power** – a power that is kept by the states; these powers are protected by the Tenth Amendment**separation of powers** – a system in which law making, law executing, and law interpreting functions are placed in separate branches**social cleavages** – a major division in the society, such as race, ethnicity, or gender**social welfare program** – a government program designed to give financial help to lower income families**Tenth Amendment** – the part of the Constitution that stated the powers not given to the national government, nor denied to the states, were left to the states**The Anti-Federalist Papers** – a series of articles that was published to counter points made in The Federalist Papers**The Federalist Papers** – a series of essays written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison in defense of the Constitution**tyranny** – the abuses of the government imposed on the people it serves**United States v. Lopez** – Supreme Court decision that ruled Congress’s creation of gun-free school zones was an unconstitutional use of its commerce power**Welfare Reform Act of 1996** – the law that used block grants to fund social welfare programs, giving states more flexibility over social welfare programs in their states |
| Unit 3: Federal Government |
| Lesson 2 | **amendment** – a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution**citizen** – someone who is considered to be a U.S. citizen at birth**congressional district** – a division of a state based on the number of members each state is assigned in the House of Representatives. Each congressional district elects one member to the House of Representatives.**Electoral College** – the system used to elect the president of the United States**impeachment** – the equivalent of charging a president with actions that could lead to their removal natural-born**inaugural address** – a speech given by the newly elected president that informs citizens of the president’s vision for America**lame duck period** – a five-month period where the sitting president who did not win or did not run in the presidential election remains in office before the next elected president’s term begins**New Deal** – a series of federal programs President Franklin D. Roosevelt created during the Great Depression to restore American prosperity**plurality** – the most votes; not necessarily a majority**popular vote** – refers to the votes of voters. Winning a state’s popular vote means a candidate won the most votes of individual voters. The winner of the national popular vote is the candidate who won the most individual votes nationally.**pro tempore** – a Latin phrase meaning “for the time being”**writ of habeas corpus** – a legal document that requires people to be charged with a crime in order to keep them in jail; it is a protection found in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution |
| Lesson 5 | **advice and consent** – a power given to the U.S. Congress to work with the president in the confirmation of appointments and treaties**agenda** – the goals and promises that a president wishes to fulfill during their term**ambassador** – an individual who represents their country in a foreign nation**cabinet** – the major advisors to the president. Made up mostly of the secretaries that control the various departments in the executive branch**checks and balances** – the powers and ability to check other branches, given to each one of the three branches to ensure that no one section of the government can obtain excessive, unchecked power**chief diplomat** – the role of the president as the main representative of the United States in foreign affairs**chief executive** – the role of the president as head of the executive branch of government**chief legislator** – the role of the president as a contributor to legislation**chief of state** – the role of the president as representative of the government and its people**Cold War** – the period after World War II when tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union increased**commander in chief** – the role of the president as the head of all the armed forces**Department of Defense** – the department that protects the nation and organizes the military**Department of Labor** – the department that oversees workers safety, protection, and labor legislation**Department of Transportation** – the department that ensures equal access to transportation and regulates all methods of transportation**executive agencies** – the independent agencies, many of which regulate an aspect of the U.S. economy**executive departments** – the largest organizations in the federal government, with each department being responsible for a different area of public policy**executive order** – a direction given to the executive branch explaining how legislation or rules should be enforced**Federal Bureau of Investigation** – an agency within the Department of Justice, which works to ensure that the law is enforced**industrialization** – the increasing use of automation to manufacture products, leading to the modern factory system, mass production, and urbanization**inherent power** – a power that is not stated in the Constitution but is necessary to fulfill constitutional duties**interstate highway system** – started under the Eisenhower administration, this road system gradually connected most of the U.S. from east to west and north to south**Office of Government Ethics** – an office within the executive branch that helps promote and oversee ethical practices in the government**party leader** – the role of the president as the head and representative of their political party**party platform** – the ideas and beliefs that a party stands for and wishes to enact**president-elect** – the individual that has been elected president and will hold the position when the next term begins**recess appointments** – the power of the president to fully appoint individuals to empty positions within the executive branch when the Senate is in recess**secretary of the Senate** – an individual who is in charge of the operations of the Senate and the communication between the executive branch and the Senate**senatorial courtesy** – the practice by which senators will follow the decision of senators whom nominees are a part of their state**State of the Union** – an annual address the president delivers to Congress informing them of the occurrences within the executive branch and the administration**treaty** – a legal agreement between countries**veto** – the action taken by executive heads to block legislation from continuing |
| Lesson 6 | **ambassador** – an individual who represents their country in a foreign nation**amnesty** – a generalized pardon to a group of individuals violating the same law**cabinet** – the major advisors to the president made up mostly of the secretaries who control the various departments in the executive branch**clemency power** – the presidential powers related to the courts**commission** – an appointment of a person to high office in the armed forces**commute** – to reduce punishments issued by federal courts**executive agreement** – a direct agreement between the president and foreign leaders to establish some relationship or action**executive power** – the power to enforce laws**Great Society** – the sets of social programs and initiatives proposed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to reduce poverty and inequality**inherent power** – a power that is not stated in the Constitution but is necessary to fulfill constitutional duties**legislative power** – the presidential powers that relate to lawmaking**Medicaid** – the federally funded and state-administered health insurance program for lower-income Americans**Medicare** – the federal health insurance program for senior citizens in the United States**NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)** – a military alliance between the United States, Canada, and European allies**pardon** – a forgiveness of legal consequences provided to an individual or a group**reprieve** – the postponement of a punishment issued by federal courts**signing statement** – a written statement issued by the president when signing a bill to explain why they signed the bill into law**special session** – a meeting of the U.S. Congress that occurs if the president forces Congress to deal with urgent issues when they are not already in session**State of the Union** – the annual address the president delivers to Congress on the condition of the United States**take care clause** – the constitutional clause that claims the president needs to take care that all laws are properly executed**treaty** – a legal agreement between countries**vesting clause** – the constitutional clause that gives all executive authority to the president**veto** – the action taken by executive heads to block legislation from continuing**War Powers Resolution** – a resolution passed by Congress in 1973 to limit the military powers of the president |
| Lesson 7 | **administrator** – the person who manages operations and/or other employees**aeronautics** – the science of the operation of aircraft**bureaucracy** – the group of departments, agencies, and commissions that make up the executive branch**bureaucrat** – a non-elected, nonpartisan expert who has rulemaking authority**bureaucratic agency** – a particular government unit that has been created by a legislative body that has a specific set of rules to perform a specific set of goals**bureaucratic discretion** – the power given to the bureaucracy to decide how policies will be implementedC**enters for Disease Control (CDC)** – the agency that conducts research and guidance to help protect public health**Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** – the independent agency that gathers intelligence for domestic and foreign use**civil employee** – a person employed by the government**civil servant** – a person who works for a government agency**Commission on Civil Rights** – the independent agency that oversees the enforcement of federal civil rights**contractor** – an independent employee who is hired to do work**demographic data** – the information collected in the U.S. Census about major groups in the U.S. population; includes data on gender, race/ethnicity, age, etc.**Department of Commerce** – the department that helps create economic opportunity and growth**Department of Defense** – the department that protects the nation and organizes the military**Department of Health and Human Services** – the department that provides services for those with disabilities and safeguards the health of all Americans**Department of Homeland Security** – the department that protects U.S. borders and guards against foreign and domestic attacks**Department of Justice** – the department that enforces federal law and oversees the fair implementation of justice**Department of State** – the department that implements foreign policy and the U.S. mission overseas**Department of Treasury** – the department that coins money, collects taxes, and ensures the fair enforcement of economic policy**distributive tendency** – the tendency for legislation to be more broad to reach more people with the benefits**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – the agency in charge of conducting research and implementing regulations to ensure the protection of the environment**executive department** – an agency tasked with carrying out laws and regulating its respective areas acting as the arms for the president**executive departments** – the largest organizations in the federal government, with each department being responsible for a different area of public policy**Federal Communications Commission** – the federal agency that regulates radio, TV, wire, and satellite communications**Federal Election Commission** – the agency that reviews and regulates election finance and practices**Federal Reserve** – the agency that regulates the money supply of the U.S. and implements regulations for banks to follow**Food and Drug Administration** – the federal agency that creates and enforces regulations of food and drugs to ensure health**government corporation** – a flexible government agency that runs like business corporations with greater freedoms within the private sector**grant programs** – government funded projects and ideas that benefit the public and encourage economic growth**independent agency** – an agency that is part of the executive branch but functions independently**independent executive agencies** – nonpartisan agencies established by Congress to create and enforce regulations**independent federal agency** – an agency established outside of departments or outside of the influence of the president**infrastructure** – the public works that include transportation systems (roads, bridges, railroads, airports) and water systems essential for economic activity**interest group** – a collection of individuals who have a common goal centered around a shared interestiron triangle – a concept that helps illustrate the relationship between the bureaucracy, Congress, and interest groups involved in policymaking**lobby** – to work to influence legislation or funding**Medicaid** – the federally funded and state-administered health insurance program for lower-income Americans**Medicare** – the federal health insurance program for senior citizens in the U.S.**merit system** – an arrangement that hires and promotes individuals based on their qualifications**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** – the agency that conducts research and missions to explore space, Earth, and the solar system**nonpartisan** – not associated with a political party**Occupational Safety and Health Administration** – the federal agency that provides guidelines, trainings, and education to make workplaces safe and healthy**regulatory agency** – an independent governmental agency tasked with exercising authority within the private sector of the economy, functioning outside executive supervision**rulemaking** – the power given to agencies to create the regulations that go along with laws**Securities and Exchange Commission** – the agency that regulates all investment advisors, securities exchanges, brokers, and mutual funds**Social Security Administration** – the agency in charge of providing financial protection for Americans in retirement and with disability |
| Lesson 8 | **Articles of Confederation** – the first governing document of the United States following the Declaration of Independence**bicameral** – consisting of two legislative houses; two houses of Congress**checks and balances** – the powers and the ability to check the other branches are given to each one of these three branches to ensure that no one section of the government could obtain excessive unchecked power**cloture** – a procedure used to end a filibuster**conference committee** – a temporary committee consisting of members from both chambers, whose purpose is to reconcile different versions of a bill**congressional committe**e – a subgroup within Congress that focuses on a specific subject area**constituency** – a body of voters**contractionary fiscal policy** – an action by the government to decrease money available to the people**debt** – the accounting of all money owed by the national government**deficit** – the accounting of money spent in excess of money collected in a fiscal year**delegate**  – a person selected to represent a political party in a federal election**enact** – to put a passed bill into action making it a law**enumerated powers** – the powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution**expansionary fiscal policy** – an action by the government to increase money available to the people**filibuster** – a process used by members of the minority party in the Senate to extend debate to delay or prevent the passage of legislation**fiscal policy** – the use of government spending and tax policies to influence economic conditions in the United States**Great Compromise** – a compromise accepted during the Constitutional Convention that developed the framework for the U.S. Congress**House Rules Committee** – an influential committee in the House of Representatives that schedules and makes rules for debate of bills**inflation** – a condition of the economy in which prices become so high that purchasing power diminishes**limited government** – a government system where there are limits put on the powers of the government**Necessary and Proper Clause** – the section of the Constitution that allows Congress to do what “is necessary and proper” to carry out the power given to it specifically by the Constitution**New Jersey Plan** – a proposal made during the Constitutional Convention calling for a unicameral legislative branch based on equal representation for each state**pocket veto** – a veto that happens when the president fails to sign a bill after Congress has been adjourned for 10 days**proportional representation** – representation based on a state’s population**recession** – a significant decline in the economyrepublic – a government in which people select leaders to represent them**revenue** – an account of all income taken in by a business or, in this case, the federal government**Senate majority leader** – leads the majority party from the floor of the Senate and is the most powerful member of the Senate**separation of powers** – the division of responsibilities between different branches of government in order to help keep one branch from becoming more powerful than another**Speaker of the House** – the leader of the House of Representatives**subcommittee** – a division within a congressional committee that works on a specific aspect of the committee’s jurisdiction**tariff** – a tax on imported goods**tyranny** – abuses of the government imposed on the people it serves**unicameral** – a one-house legislature**veto** – rejection of a bill**Virginia Plan** – a proposal made during the Constitutional Convention calling for a bicameral legislative branch with membership in both houses based on a state’s population |
| Lesson 9 | **Articles of Confederation** – the first constitution of the United States**commerce clause** – a clause in the Constitution that gives Congress the power to regulate interstate and foreign trade**confederal** – relating to a system in which states or subnational governments delegate power to the national government**congressional chamber** – refers to each of the chambers of Congress known as the Senate Chamber and the House Chamber**congressional oversight** – the power of Congress to act as a watchdog over the executive branch by holding hearings, monitoring, and supervising federal agencies**delegate** – a person selected to represent a political party in a federal election**delegated powers** – the powers that are assigned to the national government based on the language in the Constitution**elastic clause** – the last clause of Article I, Section 8 that gives Congress the flexibility to make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying out the powers listed in the same section known as the enumerated powers**enumerated powers** – powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution**expressed powers** – part of the delegated powers that are explicitly stated in the Constitution**implied powers** – part of the delegated powers that are implied from the expressed powers**limited government** – a government system in which there are limits put on the powers of the government**McCulloch v. Maryland** – the Supreme Court case in which the Court adopted a “loose” interpretation of the necessary and proper clause, allowing an expansion of implied powers**necessary and proper clause** – the clause in the Constitution that allows Congress to expand upon the powers stated in the Constitution**ratification** – official approval |
| Lesson 10 | **apportionment** – the process of assigning representatives to states according to the population of the state**Baker v. Carr** – a U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognized the power of the court to consider the constitutionality of redistricting**caucus** – an election among party members, who gather and interact with each other, to determine which member will be nominated to run in the general election against the nominee of the other political party**closed caucus** – a caucus that is only open to party members**closed primary** – a primary election that is only open to party members**Congressional district** – a territory in which constituents reside that is represented by a particular member of the U.S. House of Representatives**general election** – the election that determines which candidate will hold office in the government**gerrymandering** – the process of drawing lines for Congressional districts that results in an advantage or disadvantage for a political party, race, or ethnicity**majority vote** – a number of votes greater than half of all total votes**open caucus** – a caucus that is open to anyone**open primary** – a primary election that is open to anyone**plurality vote** – a number of votes for one candidate that is more than votes for any other candidate, but is not a majority of the total votes**primary election** – an election by a political party, where members do not interact with each other and the voting process is anonymous, to determine which member will be nominated to run in the general election against the opponent of the other party**redistricting** – the process of drawing lines for Congressional districts according to changes that result from the census and apportionment**runoff election** – the election that is required when no candidate receives a majority of the vote in a primary and/or caucus**simple majority** – an election outcome where the candidate receives the minimal number of votes to win, which is half of all votes plus one**supermajority** – an outcome where the candidate receives somewhere between a simple majority and a unanimous total of votes**unanimous** – an outcome where the candidate receives all possible votes |
| Lesson 11 | **adjourn** – to go out of session**bill** – a proposal for a new law**checks and balances** – a system in which one institution of government can check or counteract another institution**concurrence** – a change made to a bill to make the House of Representatives and the Senate version the same**conference committee** – a temporary committee comprised of members from both chambers of Congress that convenes to work on a specific project**enact** – to put a passed bill into action making it a law**judicial review** – a review by a court to determine the legality of a law or rule**pocket veto** – a veto that happens when the president fails to sign a bill after Congress has been adjourned for 10 days**promulgate** – to promote; to make broadly known**rulemaking** – the process federal agencies use to propose and issue regulations to put laws into effect**simple majority** – more than half the votes in one chamber of Congress**veto** – a rejection of a proposal, such as a bill |
| Lesson 12 | **appropriation** – the money given by Congress to a federal department or agency**bully pulpit** – the president’s use of the chief executive position to dominate an issue with the public and shape public opinion**checks and balances** – the powers and the ability to check the other branches are given to each one of these three branches to ensure that no one section of the government could obtain excessive unchecked power**Civil Rights Act of 1964** – a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**congressional oversight** – the power of Congress to check the powers of the executive branch of government through hearings or funding bills**executive departments** – the largest organizations in the federal government, with each department being responsible for a different area of public policy**executive order** – a directive signed by the president that has the same power as federal law**Great Depression** – a period of severe economic downturn, beginning in 1929 and lasting to the 1930s, leading to high levels of unemployment and poverty in America and the world**habeas corpus** – an order to bring an arrested person before a judge**Hepburn Act of 1906** – the legislation giving power to the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate railroad charges for shipping**Jim Crow laws** – the laws that legalized the separation of people based on race in areas of school, public places, and transportation**power of the purse** – the power of Congress to give or withhold money from federal agencies**Second Industrial Revolution** – a period of rapid industrialization from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century in which standardization and uniformity in the workplace replaced small artisans as sources of manufactured goods**spending bill** – a congressional bill that decides how much money is given to federal agencies |
| Lesson 13 | **appellate jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear appeals from lower-level courts**associate justice** – a justice on the Supreme Court who is not the chief justice**Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** – the U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that separate but equal educational facilities are inherently unequal**checks and balances** – a constitutional principle that allows each branch to check one another to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful**chief justice** – the presiding justice on the Supreme Court**diversity jurisdiction** – a method used to allow federal courts the authority to hear civil cases involving parties who are citizens of two different states**Dred Scott v. Sandford** – the U. S. Supreme Court case that ruled that African Americans, whether enslaved or free, were not citizens of the United States and were not protected under the U.S. Constitution**exclusive jurisdiction** – a case that can only be heard in one type of court**federal statute** – a law enacted by Congress**independent judiciary** – the idea that the judiciary should be insulated from influence so that its decisions are based on what is right and just, not what is popular**judicial branch** – the branch of government that interprets laws, consisting of the U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system**judicial review** – the doctrine that the U.S. Supreme Court has the power to determine whether the actions of the legislative branch or the executive branch are constitutional**jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear a case**limited jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear only certain types of cases**original jurisdiction** – the authority of the court to hear cases for the first time based on evidence**rule of four** – the rule that four of the justices need to be in agreement before a case can be added to the Supreme Court’s calendar**rule of law** – the restriction of the arbitrary use of government power based on well-defined and established laws**tenure** – the holding of an office**writ of certiorari** – the process by which information about a case is sent to a higher court from a lower court |
| Lesson 14 | **appellate jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear appeals from lower-level courts**checks and balances** – the division of responsibilities between different branches of government in order to help keep one branch from becoming more powerful than another**cloture** – a procedure used to end a filibuster in the Senate**constitutional** – whether or not an action or decision follows the rules/guidelines set by the U.S. Constitution**executive order** – a directive signed by the president that has the same power as federal law**filibuster** – a process used by members of the minority party in the Senate to extend debate to delay or prevent the passage of legislation**judicial review** – the doctrine that the U.S. Supreme Court has the power to determine whether the actions of the legislative branch or the executive branch are constitutional**jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear a case**limited jurisdiction** – the authority of a court to hear only certain types of cases**Marbury v. Madison** – the U.S. Supreme Court decision that established the doctrine of judicial review**original jurisdiction** – the authority of the court to hear cases for the first time based on evidence**senatorial courtesy** – a custom in the U.S. Senate by which the president consults the senators of a given state before nominating any person to a federal vacancy within the senators’ state**separation of powers** – the division of responsibilities between different branches of government in order to help keep one branch from becoming more powerful than another**writ of mandamus** – a court order issued to a government official ordering them to properly fulfill their official duties |
| Lesson 15 | **affirm** – a ruling by the Supreme Court that upholds the previous ruling on a case**concurring opinion** – an opinion that agrees with the majority opinion but not the reason for the ruling**dissenting opinion** – an opinion that disagrees with the majority on a case**expressed powers** – the delegated powers that are explicitly stated in the Constitution**implied powers** – the delegated powers that are implied from the expressed powers**judicial activism** – the ruling on laws based on political or personal views that lead to a preferred or desired outcome regardless of the law that is written**judicial restraint** – the idea that judges should not rule on matters of the constitutionality of the actions of the executive or legislative branch because those matters should be decided by the voting public**judicial review** – the doctrine that the U.S. Supreme Court has the power to determine whether the actions of the legislative branch or the executive branch are constitutional**majority opinion** – the official ruling of the Supreme Court on a case with a minimum of five justice votes**per curiam opinion** – an opinion issued by the Supreme Court that does not identify the justice who wrote the opinion**United States Supreme Court** – the highest federal court in the nation**vacate** – a Supreme Court decision on a case that cancels the previous ruling**writ of certiorari** – the process by which information about a case is sent to a higher court from a lower court |
| Lesson 16 | **commission** – the official document signed by the president approving his appointment**constitutional interpretation** – when judges have a different viewpoint of the Constitution and how it is applied to court cases and legislation**dissenting** – a disagreement with an official decision**due process clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the state must recognize the legal rights of individuals and treat them fairly**elastic clause** – the last clause of Article 1, Section 8 that gives Congress the flexibility to make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying out the powers listed in the same section known as the enumerated powers**enumerated powers** – the specific powers of the national government listed in the Constitution**exclusionary rule** – a rule requiring that evidence obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment be excluded at trial**expressed powers** – part of the delegated powers that are explicitly stated in the Constitution**Fifth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a grand jury, prohibiting trials for the same crime twice, preventing self-incrimination, and prohibiting the taking of private property without compensation**First Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects religious liberty and freedom of expression such as speech**Fourteenth Amendment** – an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, part of which includes the due process and equal protection clauses, which read, “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”**Fourth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people from unreasonable searches**implied powers** – political powers delegated to the U.S. government that are not explicitly stated in the Constitution**judicial activism**– the idea that a judge should consider the ramifications of the actions of the legislative and judicial branches rather than merely the constitutionality of those actions**judicial review** – the doctrine that the U.S. Supreme Court has the power to determine whether the actions of the legislative branch or the executive branch are constitutional**jurisdiction** – power to make a legal judgment or decision**loose construction** – a broad interpretation of the U.S. Constitution in which the document is treated as a living document that can change as the nation changes and should give the federal government powers to do what is necessary**Marbury v. Madison** – U.S. Supreme Court decision that established the doctrine of judicial review**McCulloch v. Maryland** – Supreme Court case where the court adopted a “loose” interpretation of the necessary and proper clause, allowing an expansion of implied powers**Miranda warning** – the rights notification given by police that came from a U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that suspects must be advised of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney**necessary and proper clause** – the clause in the Constitution that allows Congress to expand upon the powers stated in the Constitution**Sixth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a speedy and public trial, requiring an impartial jury, identifying the specific crime committed, making witness testimony public, and providing a lawyer for the accused**strict construction** – the interpretation of the Constitution exactly as it is written, which provides limited powers to the federal government**Tenth Amendment**– the part of the Constitution that states that the powers not given to the national government, nor denied to the states, are left to the states**U.S. Supreme Court** – the highest federal court in the nation**writ of mandamus** – an order from a higher court ordering a government official to fulfill their duties |
| Unit 4: Civil Rights and Liberties |
| Lesson 2 | **bill of attainder** – a legislative act inflicting punishment without a judicial trial**black codes** – laws passed by southern states, designed to replace the social controls of slavery following the end of the Civil War**citizenship clause** – clause of the Fourteenth Amendment that defines citizenship**civil liberties** – the basic natural rights such as life, liberty, and property and protection against arbitrary governmental action**civil rights** – rights that require equal treatment for groups in society by the government**due process clause (Fourteenth Amendment)** – one of two due process clauses in the Constitution. The one in the Fourteenth Amendment allows for selective incorporation.**eminent domain** – the right of the government to take personal property for public use after providing due process and just compensation**equal protection clause** – a clause in the Fourteenth Amendment that requires states to treat citizens equally; does not apply to the national government or private business**ex post facto law** – a law retroactively increasing a punishment for a criminal act or altering the definition of a crime**Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause** – a clause that protects individual civil liberties against the national government and requires suspect classifications (race, religion, national origin, and alienage) to be treated equally by the national government**Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause** – the section of the Constitution that protects individual civil liberties against states**habeas corpus** – an order to bring an arrested person before a judge**incorporation doctrine** – found within the due process clause where certain items in the Bill of Rights must be included by the states**intermediate scrutiny** – a test used to determine if distinctions based on sex are acceptable**penalty clause** – a clause in the Fourteenth Amendment that provides for a reduction in the number of U.S. Representatives that a state is entitled to if it discriminates against Black voters**procedural due process** – a process that requires that before a person is deprived of life, liberty, or property, a predetermined procedure must be followed**ratification** – when nine of the 13 state conventions had to vote to accept the Constitution in order for it to become law**rational basis** – a test used to determine if other forms of distinction are acceptable**strict scrutiny** – a test used to determine if distinctions based on suspect classifications are acceptable**substantive due process** – gets to the idea of fairness and that there are limits to the power of the government to encroach into an individual’s life**suspect classification** – a group that has been discriminated against in the past and has been recognized by the Court. Race, religion, national origin, and alienage are all suspect classifications |
| Lesson 3 | **civil rights** – the rights that require equal treatment for groups in society by the government**clear and present danger doctrine** – a Supreme Court ruling in the case of Schenck v. United States that political expression can be restricted only if it creates a serious and immediate risk to national security**equal protection clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the government cannot deny individuals equal protection under the law**Espionage Act of 1917** – a law passed shortly after the United States entered World War I to limit interference with military operations and recruitment**establishment clause** – a clause in the First Amendment that prohibits the national government and, through selective incorporation, state government promoting a specific religion or religion in general**First Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects religious liberty and freedom of expression such as speech**flag desecration** – the act when someone purposefully destroys or damages a flag**Free Exercise Clause** – a clause in the First Amendment that prohibits the national government and, through selective incorporation, state government from unduly interfering with an individual’s practice of religion**freedom of expression** – the right to express thoughts and communicate those thoughts to others**Gitlow v. New York** – a Supreme Court decision that required state governments to abide by an individual’s freedom of speech**Lemon test** – the three-part test used by the Supreme Court to determine if a government’s involvement with religion is constitutional**military draft** – an act that requires men of a certain age to be available to serve in the military**Schenck v. United States** – a Supreme Court decision that created the clear and present danger doctrine related to the freedom of speech found in the First Amendment**secular** – non-religious**selective incorporation** – the process by which the Supreme Court has applied portions of the Bill of Rights to the states on a case-by-case basis via the Fourteenth Amendment due process and equal protection clauses**separation of church and state** – a phrase normally associated with the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment**symbolic speech** – utilizing symbols to communicate messages**Texas v. Johnson** – a Supreme Court decision that ruled state governments cannot outlaw burning an American flag as a form of political protest**United States v. Eichman** – a Supreme Court decision that ruled that the burning of an American flag, as a form of protest, is protected symbolic speech under the First Amendment |
| Lesson 4 | **Establishment Clause** – the clause in the First Amendment that prohibits the national government, and through selective incorporation, state government, from promoting a specific religion or religion in general**Free Exercise Clause** – the clause in the First Amendment that prohibits the national government, and through selective incorporation, state government from unduly interfering with an individual's practice of religion**incendiary speech** – the type of speech that causes a strong reaction and can lead to lawless action**Lemon test** – the test created as a result of Lemon v. Kurtzman to determine if the government is violating the Establishment Clause**libel** – the printing or promoting of false information about a person or organization**prior restraint** – the ability of the United States government to withhold or prevent media from printing information that is sensitive to the security of the United States**separation of church and state** – the idea that religion should be separate from government, not supported, oppressed, or intertwined**slander** – the defamation of a person’s character in print or media by tarnishing their image or reputation |
| Lesson 5 | **adversary method** – an approach to legal cases that requires the opposing sides to bring out pertinent information, cross-examine witnesses, and present evidence to an impartial judge or jury to render a verdict**Bill of Rights** – the first ten amendments of the Constitution that limit the power the U.S. government has over the U.S. people**Constitution** – a document that provides the legal basis for the United States of America**double jeopardy** – being tried twice for the same crime**due process** – fair treatment through the normal judicial system**eminent domain** – the right of the government to take personal property for public use after providing due process and just compensation**grand jury** – a group of citizens who hear evidence from a prosecutor about potential crimes**inquisitorial method** – an approach to legal cases in which a judge is responsible for all aspects of the case including obtaining evidence, conducting an investigation, and rendering a verdict**jury** – a group of twelve people selected from the public to give a verdict in a legal case**legal counsel** – an attorney who gives advice and defense in legal matters**peremptory challenge** - an objection by either the prosecutor or defense attorney to a proposed juror, made without needing to give a reason**prejudicial** - harmful to someone or something, detrimental**self-incrimination** – the act of implicating oneself in a crime or exposing oneself to criminal prosecution**Sixth Amendment** – the sixth addition to the Bill of Rights that outlines the rights of citizens in court**subpoena** - a writ ordering a person to attend a court |
| Lesson 6 | **Bill of Rights** – the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, listing essential rights and liberties of people**capital crime** – a crime punishable by the death penalty**civil liberty** – a basic natural right such as life, liberty, and property, and protection against arbitrary governmental action**deterrent** – something that keeps people from doing something in the future because they are afraid of what might happen**exclusionary rule** – the rule requiring that evidence obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment be excluded at trial**Fourth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people from unreasonable searches**good faith exception** – an exception to the requirement for a warrant**homicide** – the killing of an individual**juvenile** – an individual who is under the age of 18**Miranda Warning** – the rights notification given by police that came from a U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that suspects must be advised of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney**parole** – when prisoners are released from their sentences but must meet certain conditions to maintain this level of freedom**probable cause** – belief by a reasonable person that it is more likely than not that a crime has been or is being committed**reasonable suspicion** – there is reasonable cause to suspect that a rule has been broken**search warrant** – an order issued by a judge that allows a search to take place**Sixth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a speedy and public trial, requiring an impartial jury, identifying the specific crime committed, making witness testimony public, and providing a lawyer for the accused**unconstitutional** – when a law or act is not in accordance with the protections of the U.S. Constitution |
| Lesson 7 | **anti-miscegenation law** – a segregation law that banned interracial marriages**civil liberty** – a basic natural right such as life, liberty, property, and protection against arbitrary governmental action**civil right** – a right that requires equal treatment for groups in society by the government**desegregation** – the ending of a policy that separates people by race**due process clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the state must recognize the legal rights of individuals**due process of law** – the fair treatment of a citizen through the normal judicial system**equal protection clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the government cannot deny individuals equal protection under the law**First Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects religious liberty and freedom of expression such as speech**Fourteenth Amendment** – an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that includes the due process and equal protection clauses**justiciable** – the idea that a case must deal with an issue that the Court can interfere in or that can be decided by legal principles**Plessy v. Ferguson** – a landmark Supreme Court case which established the doctrine of separate but equal**Reconstruction Amendments** – a series of amendments that expanded rights to enslaved Black Americans**slave codes** – the laws that were based on the concept that enslaved persons were property**Three-fifths Compromise** – an agreement between the northern and southern states that three out of every five enslaved people would be counted to determine taxation and representation in the House of Representatives |
| Lesson 8 | **abolition** – the desire to end slavery**abridge** – to limit or reduce**black codes** – the laws passed by southern states, designed to replace the social controls of slavery following the end of the Civil War**enfranchise** – the granting of a right or privilege; commonly referring to the right to vote**franchise** – the right to vote**freedman** – a person liberated from slavery in the Civil War period**Jim Crow laws** – the laws that legalized the separation of people based on race in areas of school, public places, and transportation**poll tax** – a fixed sum tax levied on individuals**reconstruction era** – the time period after the Civil War when the federal government attempted to address the wrongs done to Black Americans under the institution of slavery and tried to make all Americans equal**suffrage** – the right to vote**suppress** – to forcibly limit or restrict**temperance** – the refusal to drink alcohol**Underground Railroad** – a network to help enslaved peoples escape to free states |
| Lesson 9 | **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** – a landmark Supreme Court case which rejected the doctrine of separate but equal and led to a policy of integration**civil rights** – the rights that require equal treatment for groups in society by the government**Civil Rights Act of 1964** – a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**civil rights movement** – a movement from 1954 to 1968 that sought equal status for Black Americans**Civil War** – the war fought between Northern states and Southern states from 1861 to 1865, resulting in the end of slavery in America**Constitution** – a document that provides the legal basis for the United States of America**Double V Campaign** – a campaign for victory over fascism abroad and victory over racism at home**due process of law** – the fair treatment of a citizen through the normal judicial system**Emancipation Proclamation** – an executive order that freed enslaved Black Americans in the rebellious Confederate states**equal protection clause** – a part of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that says the government cannot deny individuals equal protection under the law**Executive Order 8802** – an executive order signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning discrimination in defense industries**Fifteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted Black men the right to vote**Fifth Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects people accused of a crime by requiring a grand jury, prohibiting trials for the same crime twice, preventing self-incrimination, and prohibiting the taking of private property without compensation**Fourteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted Black people citizenship and guaranteed due process and equal protections for all U.S. citizens**Jim Crow laws** – the laws that legalized the separation of people based on race in areas of school, public places, and transportation**judicial activism** – the ruling on laws based on political or personal views that lead to a preferred or desired outcome regardless of the law that is written**judicial restraint** – the idea that judges should not rule on matters of the constitutionality of the actions of the executive or legislative branch because those matters should be decided by the voting public**legislative intent** – the goals of the legislators at the time of a bill’s passage**March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom** – a march in 1963 that was organized to call attention to civil rights issues and put pressure on politicians to support change**Montgomery Bus Boycott** – a bus boycott from December 5, 1955 to December 20, 1956 that ended segregation on city buses in Montgomery, Alabama**plain meaning rule** – an interpretation of the law that uses ordinary language when language is unclear**Plessy v. Ferguson** – a landmark Supreme Court case that established the doctrine of separate but equal**precedent** – a decision of a court, particularly the Supreme Court, that will be used as a guide to help make future decisions**Reconstruction Amendments** – a series of amendments that expanded rights to enslaved Black Americans**Reconstruction Era** – the period after the Civil War when the federal government attempted to address the wrongs done to Black Americans under the institution of slavery and tried to make all Americans equal**separate but equal** – a legal doctrine that permitted racial segregation in public facilities and services as long as the standard and quality of the segregated facilities and services were equivalent**Separate Car Act** – an 1890 Louisiana state law that required separate train cars for White and Black American travelers in the state of Louisiana and was the subject of Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896**textualist** – a method to interpret legislation according to the ordinary meaning of the words and does not consider the intent of the legislation**Thirteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that ended slavery**Voting Rights Act of 1965** – a law to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by prohibiting discriminatory voting practices |
| Lesson 10 | **asylum** – the protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country as a political refugee fleeing an oppressive government**braille** – a form of written language for blind people, in which characters are represented by patterns of raised dots that are felt with the fingertips**deportation** – the removal from a country of a person who is not a citizen**disenfranchisement** – the state of being deprived of a right or privilege, especially the right to vote**due process clause** – the portion of the Fourteenth Amendment that states no person shall be denied life, liberty, or property and that all individuals shall be treated fairly and given the opportunity to have legal matters resolved according to established rules and principles**equal protection clause** – the portion of the Fourteenth Amendment that states the government must treat an individual in the same manner as others in similar conditions and circumstances and that it may not deny people equal protection of its laws or rights**literacy test** – a test given to assess a person’s ability to read and write; used as a tool in the Jim Crow era to restrict voting among Black Americans**lynching** – the act of putting a person to death (often by hanging) by mob action without legal approval or permission**marginalized** – to treat a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral**multiculturalism** – the presence of several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society**undocumented noncitizen** – a person residing in any given country without legal documentation**visa** – a conditional travel document issued by the traveler's country of citizenship to any person seeking entry into another country or territory |
| Lesson 11 | **Articles of Confederation (1781–1789)** – the first constitution of the United States**Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** – a landmark Supreme Court case, which rejected the doctrine of separate but equal and led to a policy of integration**civil rights** – the rights that require equal treatment for groups in society by the government, private individuals, and corporations**Civil Rights Act (1964)** – the law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin**civil rights movement** – a movement from 1954 to 1968 that sought equal status for Black Americans**Civil War** – the war fought between northern states and southern states from 1861 to 1865 resulting in the end of slavery in America**coverture** – the legal definition of marriage as one person**Electoral College** – the citizens chosen to serve as electors responsible for voting for the president and the vice president following the November general election**Fifteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted Black American men the right to vote**Fourteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted Black people citizenship and guaranteed due process and equal protections for all U.S. citizens**gerrymandering** – manipulating the boundaries of election districts to gain an unfair electoral advantage**interest group** – a well-organized group of people with a shared identifying interest that attempts to influence the legislative process**Jim Crow laws** – the laws that legalized the separation of people based on race in areas of school, public places, and transportation**liberal constructionism** – the legal interpretation of the Constitution that uses the text to discover hidden intentions of the founders**lobbying** – an attempt to influence legislation to promote specific interests**March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)** – 1963 march that was organized in order to call attention to civil rights issues and put pressure on politicians to support change**Plessy v. Ferguson** – a landmark Supreme Court case that established the doctrine of separate but equal**political party** – an organization that seeks to control the government and enact their policy preferences by getting their members elected to Congress**poll tax** – the money that some citizens had to pay in order to vote**redline** – a de facto segregation housing policy in which real estate could not be sold or financed to Black families within specific neighborhood boundaries**segregation** – an imposed physical separation of people**social movement** – a large group of people that is loosely organized but seeking societal change**strict constructionism** – the legal interpretation of the Constitution that uses the text only to determine founders’ intent**Thirteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that ended slavery**Three-Fifths Compromise** – an agreement between the northern and southern states that three out of every five enslaved people would be counted to determine taxation and representation in the House of Representatives**U.S. Constitution (1787)** – framework of American government complete with rights, powers, and responsibilities of the individual and of the state and national levels of government**Voting Rights Act of 1965** – a law to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution by prohibiting discriminatory voting practices |
| Lesson 12 | **authoritarian system of government** – a government that concentrates power through a leader, small group of people, or single political party; no real constitutional limitations on government actions exist; and the government forms all laws with no input from the people. Also, citizens must submit to government power or face serious consequences**Bridges v. Wixon** – a Supreme Court ruling that declared that since the language in the Bill of Rights does not distinguish between citizens and noncitizens; noncitizens are therefore protected by the Bill of Rights**democratic system of government** – a government in which officials are selected through free and fair elections, constitutional limitations on government actions are established, laws are created and enforced through a democratic process, and individual freedom of thought and action is allowed**diversity jurisdiction** – a method used to allow federal courts the authority to hear civil cases involving parties who are citizens of two different states**Dred Scott v. Sandford** – the U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled that Black Americans, whether enslaved or free, were not citizens of the United States and were not protected under the U.S. Constitution**dual citizenship** – a person who is considered a citizen of two countries simultaneously**free and fair elections** – elections in which citizens have unfettered access to polling places, and the results are accurate and reliable**jus sanguinis** – the principle that anyone born of a citizen also obtains citizenship regardless of where the person is born**jus soli** – the principle of birthright citizenship**literacy test** – a test given to assess a person’s ability to read and write; used as a tool in the Jim Crow era to restrict voting among Black Americans**naturalization** – the process someone who is born outside of the United States uses to voluntarily becomes a citizen of the U.S.**naturalized citizen** – a person who is born in one country and completes all the steps required by law to become a citizen of another country**permanent resident** – a person granted the right to live in the United States indefinitely**political participation** – activities through which people develop and express their opinions on the world and how it is governed, and try to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives**poll tax** – a sum of money that some citizens had to pay in order to vote**security clearance** – the prerequisite for government and private jobs allowing individuals access to information or areas considered secret by the government**suffrage** – the right to vote**temporary resident** – a foreign national granted the right to stay in a country for a certain length of time without full citizenship**treason** – the act of betraying allegiance to your country by helping an enemy or waging war against one’s own country**tribal sovereignty** – the geographic areas that are solely governed by Indigenous Americans in which tribal governments have autonomy in lawmaking, establishing public services, and imposing taxes |
| Lesson 13 | **alien** – an outdated term for a person without United States citizenship or nationality (may include a stateless person); term is no longer used by the U.S. government**birthright citizen** – a person who is born to parents who are citizens of a country or who is born within that country**citizen** – a member of a country through birth or through a process called naturalization**citizenship** – when a person shows an allegiance to a state, agreeing to be legally bound by its laws and in turn is covered by its protection**conditional resident** – a noncitizen granted permanent resident status under certain conditions that only the U.S. government can remove**deportable noncitizen** – a noncitizen who has been admitted into the U.S., broken the law, and is now subject to any grounds of removal specified in the Immigration and Nationality Act**green card / permanent resident card** – a document that proves that a noncitizen is allowed to live and work permanently in the United States**illegal alien** – an outdated term used for a person who is a non-U.S. citizen who does not have permission to stay in or enter the U.S.; term is no longer used by the U.S. government**lawful permanent resident** – a migrant not a citizen of the U.S. who is a lawfully recorded permanent resident**migrant** – a person who leaves their country of origin to seek residence in another country**naturalization** – the process, established by Congress, that a lawful permanent resident must complete to become a U.S. citizen**naturalized citizen** – a person who is born in one country and completes all the steps required by law to become a citizen of another country**noncitizen resident** – a person who does not have U.S. citizenship or nationality**Oath of Allegiance** – an oath of loyalty that every applicant for U.S. citizenship must make publicly prior to becoming a U.S. citizen**refugee** – a migrant who fears their government will harm them due to their race, religion, nationality, social group, or political opinion**resident** – a person who permanently lives somewhere**resident alien** – an outdated term used for a non-U.S. citizen currently residing in the U.S.**returning resident** – any lawful permanent resident who has been outside the U.S. and is returning to the U.S.**temporary resident** – a noncitizen who is seeking to become a temporary resident of the U.S. for a specific purpose and period of time**undocumented migrant** – a person who has immigrated to the U.S. and does not have the proper travel, carrier, or work documents to classify them as a lawful permanent resident; sometimes referred as “undocumented” or as an “illegal alien”**undocumented noncitizen** – a noncitizen convicted of a felony, who entered the U.S. unlawfully, and/or whose period of stay in the U.S. has expired**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services** – the government agency that processes citizenship applications |
| Unit 5: Civics and Political Participation |
| Lesson 2 | **Bill of Rights** – the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were ratified in 1791 that guarantee specific rights and freedoms to the people and the states**checks and balances** – a system in which one institution of government can check or counteract another institution**civic responsibility** – an action U.S. citizens perform to support a democratic society**civic virtue** – a set of standard moral behaviors for citizens to uphold by putting community needs ahead of individual needs**civil trial** – a trial that occurs to settle a legal dispute between two parties**conscription** – the process by which a government raises a military force by requiring people to serve under penalty of law**criminal trial** – a trial where the government has brought charges against a person that accuses them of breaking a law**general election** – an election used to determine who will be elected to public office**grand jury** – a jury used to determine if there is enough evidence to charge a person with a crime**income tax** – a tax that is paid based on the amount of money that a person earns**initiative petition** – a process by which citizens can make public policy by circulating a petition, gaining an appropriate number of signatures, and then forcing a vote on a specific question or proposition**natural rights** – the rights given to all humans and are not dependent on the laws, customs, or beliefs of any culture or government**nominee** – a person chosen to represent a political party at a general election**primary election** – an election used to determine who will represent each political party at the general election**property tax** – a tax that is assessed based on the value of property that a person owns**recall election** – an election used to remove a person from office before the end of their term**referendum** – a process in which a state legislature or city council writes and submits a proposed law to the voters for their approval**right to petition** – the ability to contact government officials and express your views without fear of retaliation**rule of law** – the idea that all people in the society are bound by the law**sales tax** – a tax that is paid based on the value of goods and services purchased**separation of powers** – the principle of government in which executive, judicial, and legislative powers are assigned to different branches of government**social contract theory** – the idea that people form governments for the protection of their natural rights and thus give up their ability to do as they please**subpoena** – an order issued by a court that commands a person named on the subpoena to appear and testify**The Federalist Papers** – a series of articles that were published to advocate for the ratification of the Constitution**trial jury** – a jury used in both criminal and civil cases to decide who wins |
| Lesson 3 | **Bill of Rights** – the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, listing essential rights and liberties of people**campaign** – an organized effort toward a coordinated goal of electing someone to a public office**civic competence** – knowledgeable in the social and political aspects of a democratic government in order to fully participate in civic life**civic disposition** – being active in democratic practices while respecting the thoughts and beliefs of others**civil society** – a civil society creates institutions dedicated to furthering the public good, or benefits to society, by working with government and business interests**Declaration of Independence (1776)** – the pronouncement by the U.S. colonies formally declaring themselves independent of Great Britain**egalitarianism** – the equal nature of people within American society**First Amendment** – the part of the Bill of Rights that protects religious liberty and freedoms of expression, such as speech**free enterprise** – the idea that people have the freedom to pursue their own economic goals without government interference**interest group** – a well-organized group of people with a shared identifying interest that attempts to influence the legislative process**legal governance** – seeks to address the needs and interests of the civil society institution by harnessing existing laws or applying pressure to create new laws**network governance** – addresses economic concerns of a local and national civil society institution by seeking laws that govern business practices**nongovernmental organization** – a voluntary institution that operates independent of government or business and seeks the advancement of a social goal or public good**patriotism** – a love for America and a respect for its institutions as well as the people that represent them**petition** – a written request to take action, typically signed by many people, to a local government agency or public official**political tolerance** – the willingness to accept different beliefs and ideologies and allow those different beliefs a protected platform of expression**private governance** – a partnership between community, national, or international businesses addressing civil society concerns**rule of law** – the idea that all people and institutions are required to follow the law regardless of their status in the society**U.S. Constitution (1787)** – framework of American government complete with rights, powers, and responsibilities of the individual and of the state and national levels of government |
| Lesson 4 | **battleground states** – states where the outcome in a presidential election is much more competitive and either candidate has a reasonable chance of winning**caucus** – a method of choosing a nominee in which voters attend a scheduled meeting in a public place on election night and publicly express their support for a candidate through a series of “aye” and “nay” votes**delegate** – a person sent by a state to represent its residents in the national convention**Election Day** – the day set to elect federal officials, including the president, vice president, and members of Congress, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years**Electoral College** – the group of presidential electors who meet every four years to select the president and vice president as outlined in the U.S. Constitution**general election** – an election used to determine who will be elected to public office**horse race** – the news media coverage during an election that focuses on who is winning versus losing based on polling, fundraising, or delegate counts**majority** – an election in which a candidate has to get more than half of the votes, or 50 percent plus one**majority vote** – an electoral process to determine a winner who receives more than half the votes of those cast**midterm election** – an election for members of Congress in non-presidential election years**national convention** – an event held in late summer in a presidential election year by each major political party to formally announce its presidential candidate**nominating contest** – a primary election, caucus, or convention to determine which candidate will represent a political party in a general election**nominating convention** – an event held at the national, state, or local level by a political party to nominate candidates for a general election**nonpartisan election** – an election in which voters get a ballot with all candidates running for office, regardless of their political party affiliation**one person, one vote** – the ideal that citizens have equal representation when voting**partisan election** – an election in which voters choose a ballot for one political party when they enter a polling place**plurality** – the most votes; not necessarily a majority**plurality voting** – an electoral system in which a candidate wins office by receiving the highest number of votes**popular vote** – the act of voting by citizens eligible to participate in elections**pre-nomination period** – the time prior to votes being cast when candidates seek name recognition, financial donors, party support, and media attention**presidential preference primary election** – in a primary, voters show up to the polls and privately vote for their preferred nominee as in any other election**primary election** – an election used to determine who will represent each political party at the general election**proportional electoral system** – an election where political parties win seats in proportion to the percentage of votes cast**safe states** – states where one political party is nearly guaranteed to win in the presidential election**single member district** – elections in which the winner is the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes**sovereignty** – the right of a government to rule without outside interference**two-party system** – an electoral process dominated by two major parties (Democrats and Republicans)**voter registration** – the requirement for citizens to register with a governing agency to determine eligibility to vote**winner take all** – an electoral process by which the candidate who wins the most votes will represent all who reside within the nation, state, district, county, or city |
| Lesson 5 | **apportioned** – to divide or allocate**apportionment** – the method of assigning U.S. House districts to each state based on population**candidate** – someone who is running for a public office**caucus election** – an election in which members of a political party vote in closed session between all the candidates vying for a particular office, most commonly the president. Votes are counted and candidates eliminated if they fail to meet a prescribed threshold. Voters for eliminated candidates are then permitted to recast their vote for a different viable candidate**convention** – a gathering of party delegates to decide their nominees for president and vice president**delegate** – a person selected to represent a political party in federal election**district** – the part of a state that a member of the House represents**Electoral College** – the system used to elect the president of the United States**gerrymandering** – creating U.S. House districts that favor one political party over the other, usually by employing unusual or convoluted shapes and boundaries**joint session** – a meeting between the members of the House and Senate in the House chamber of the United States Capitol**nominee** – a person chosen to represent a political party at a general election**popular vote** – the aggregate total of all individual votes cast for each nominee**primary election** – an election used to determine who will represent each political party at the general election**Progressive Era** – the time period roughly from 1890 to 1920, characterized by major changes in American political culture, when a number of election reforms increased democratic participation and reduced the power of political parties**superdelegate** – a designation used by the Democratic Party to indicate a convention delegate who is not pledged to vote for a certain candidate |
| Lesson 6 | **abolitionist** – a person who opposed slavery prior to and during the American Civil War**agenda** – the goals and promises that a political party wishes to fulfill**coalition** – a political group formed to complete particular legislation**diverse population** – a population that differs from others due to a qualifying characteristic, such as race, gender, sexual identity, or socioeconomic condition.**Farewell Address** – Washington's speech as he left the presidency providing advice on the future of American politics**Great Depression** – a period of severe economic downturn beginning in 1929 and lasting to the 1930s leading to high levels of unemployment and poverty in America and the world**gridlock** – difficulty moving the legislative process forward**ideology** – a set of ethical ideals or principles that one may believe about how society should work and function**interest group** – a well-organized group of people with a shared identifying interest that attempts to influence the legislative process**lobbying** – an attempt by organized interest groups or individual citizens to influence the decision of policy makers in government**party platform** – the ideas and beliefs that a party stands for and wishes to enact**plank** – a section of a political party platform that addresses a specific issue**political efficacy** – the trust people have in their ability to influence and understand political issues and to create change in the government**political ideology** – a set of ethical ideals or principles that one may believe about how society should work and function**Progressive Era** – a period in the U.S. that saw significant political, social, and economic reforms aimed at reducing the power of corporations and putting government to work on behalf of American workers**special interest group** – a group of people, a company, or an industry that works to impact legislation and public policy in their favor on one or more shared concerns or topics**spirit of party** – the favoring of your segment of the community and those like you over the public good**stakeholder** – an individual who has a particular interest in an issue**The New Nationalism** – Theodore Roosevelt’s campaign speech laying out his vision for new political and economic arrangements in the U.S. |
| Lesson 9 | **census** – an official count of the population and its demographics**congressional districts** – states are divided into congressional districts based on the number of members they are assigned in the House of Representatives. Each congressional district elects one member to the House of Representatives.**cracking** – a gerrymandering method used to divide a cluster of voters who support the same political party into several districts**Fifteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted Black men the right to vote**Fourteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted Black people citizenship and guaranteed due process and equal protections for all U.S. citizens**gerrymander** – to manipulate the boundaries of election districts to gain an unfair electoral advantage**Indian Citizenship Act (1924)** – an act that granted Native Americans citizenship**Nineteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted women the right to vote**packing** – a gerrymandering method where likeminded voters are grouped to support a political party in one voting district to reduce their influence in surrounding districts**poll tax** – the money that some citizens had to pay in order to vote**reapportionment** – a gain or loss of congressional seats as a result of population changes**Reconstruction** – the time period after the Civil War when the federal government attempted to address the wrongs done to Black Americans under the institution of slavery and tried to make all Americans equal**redistricting** – a process in which state and local governments redraw their districts because of the population changes that occur over the course of a decade**Seneca Falls Convention (1848)** – the first women’s rights convention in the United States**Snyder Act** – the act granting citizenship to Indigenous Americans**suffrage** – the right to vote**suffragette** – a woman who fought for the right to vote**Twenty-Fourth Amendment** – the constitutional amendment prohibiting poll taxes in the United States**Twenty-Sixth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution giving the right for U.S. citizens aged 18 years and older to vote**Voting Rights Act of 1965** – a law to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution by prohibiting discriminatory voting practices |
| Lesson 10 | **active citizen** – a citizen who is active in local communities and government at all levels while advocating for social issues**citizen** – a person who shows an allegiance to a state, agreeing to be legally bound by its laws and in turn is covered by its protection**civil rights movement** – a movement from 1954 to 1968 that sought equal status for Black Americans**constitutional republic** – a system of government in which particular principles are embodied in a constitution (document) that establishes separate branches, and the public has the ability to influence those who hold power through regular elections**demographic data** – the information collected in the U.S. Census about major groups in the U.S. population; includes data on gender, race/ethnicity, age, etc.**enfranchise** – the granting of a right or privilege; commonly referring to the right to vote**Fourteenth Amendment** – the addition to the Constitution that granted African Americans citizenship**Jim Crow laws** – the laws that legalized the separation of people based on race in areas of school, public places, and transportation**literacy tests** – a test given to assess a person’s ability to read and write; used as a tool in the Jim Crow era to restrict voting among Black Americans**natural born citizen** – someone who at birth is considered to be a U.S. citizen**naturalized citizen** – a person who is born in a foreign country and completes all the steps required by law to become a citizen**Nineteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted women the right to vote**political party** – an organized group of people with common political ideologies who work to acquire and exercise political power**poll taxes** – money that some citizens had to pay in order to vote**Reconstruction** – the time period after the Civil War when the federal government attempted to address the wrongs done to Black Americans under the institution of slavery and tried to make all Americans equal**suffrage** – the right to vote**suffragette** – a woman who fought for the right to vote**The Federalist Papers** – a series of essays written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison in defense of the Constitution |
| Lesson 11 | **delegated powers** – the powers that are assigned to the national government based on the language in the Constitution**draft** – compulsory recruitment for military service**general election** – an election used to determine who will be elected to public office**grand jury** – a jury that determines if there is enough evidence to warrant a criminal trial**income tax** – a tax paid on money earned**initiative** – the ability for registered voters in some states to create new laws and amend a state’s constitution**natural rights** – the rights that are not dependent on the laws of government and are inalienable**payroll tax** – a tax paid on wages that funds Social Security and Medicare**police power** – the power to protect the public peace, safety, and welfare**primary election** – an election used to determine who will represent each political party at the general election**property tax** – a tax paid on the value of property**referendum** – a general vote by citizens on a single political question**reserved power** – a power that is kept by the states; these are protected by the Tenth Amendment**rule of law** – the idea that all people and institutions are required to follow the law regardless of their status in the society**sales tax** – a tax paid on the value of goods and services purchased**trial jury** – the jury that determines if a criminal defendant is guilty in a criminal case or which side wins in a civil case |
| Lesson 12 | **agenda setting** – the process by which an individual or group attempts to determine which issue will be addressed in a political system**Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** – a landmark Supreme Court case, which rejected the doctrine of separate but equal and led to a policy of integration**Civil Rights Act of 1964** – a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**electioneering** – the process of trying to influence elections**Flint Water Crisis (2014–2019)** – a public health crisis in Flint, Michigan due to water that was contaminated with lead**general election** – an election used to determine who will be elected to public office**governmental bureaucrats** – the people who are employed or who work closely with governmental leaders within the executive branch**Greensboro sit-ins (1960)** – a protest movement that began in Greensboro, North Carolina, where Black American college students peacefully sat at lunch counters and refused to leave until they were served**hard money** – the contributions made directly to a candidate**initiative petition** – a process by which citizens can make public policy by circulating a petition, gaining an appropriate number of signatures, and then forcing a vote on a specific question or proposition**interest group** – a well-organized group of people with a shared identifying interest that attempts to influence the legislative process**linkage institution** – a social structure connecting the people to the central authorities or government**lobbying** – the organized process of influencing legislation or policy**lobbyist** – a person who is paid to work on behalf of a company or industry to promote their interests**logrolling** – a situation in which members of Congress work together to support each other’s bills by exchanging positive votes on their legislation**Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–1956)** – a bus boycott from December 5, 1955 to December 20, 1956 that ended segregation on city buses in Montgomery, Alabama**Nineteenth Amendment** – an addition to the Constitution that granted women the right to vote**policy-making institutions** – the institutions that craft public policy**political action committee** – an organization that facilitates special interest group contributions to candidates**political party** – an organization that seeks to control the government and enact their policy preferences by getting their members elected to Congress**primary election** – an election used to determine who will represent each political party at the general election**public policy** – a system of laws, plans, actions, and behaviors of a government**referendum** – a process in which a state legislature or city council writes and submits a proposed law to the voters for their approval**Seneca Falls Convention (1848)** – the first women's rights convention in the United States**social movement** – a large group of people loosely organized seeking societal change**special interest group** – a group of people, a company, or an industry that works to impact legislation and public policy in their favor on one or more shared concerns or topics**stakeholders** – the people, groups, or organizations with an interest or concern about something and are impacted by a decision or course of action**suffrage** – the right to vote |
| Lesson 13 | **administrative regulation** – a policy that reflects the discretion that an agency has with regard to how it is going to execute or carry out a statutory law passed by Congress**bureaucracy** – the group of departments, agencies, and commissions that make up the executive branch**delegated powers** – the powers given to the national government by the Constitution**executive order** – a directive signed by the president that has the same power as federal law**fiscal federalism** – a way that the national government circumvents the limits of delegated powers by offering grants to states and then imposing rules on the states**linkage institution** – a social structure connecting the people to the central authorities or government**lobbying** – an attempt to influence legislation or administrative regulations to promote specific interests**political party** – an organization that seeks to control the government and enact their policy preferences by getting their members elected to Congress**reserved powers** – the powers that are reserved for the states exclusively**special interest group** – a group of people, a company, or an industry that works to impact legislation and public policy in its favor on one or more shared concerns or topics**statutory law** – a public policy passed by Congress or a state legislature |
| Lesson 14 | **bias** – set ideas for or against something**concision bias** – the sharing of information that is easy to understand and beneficial while omitting other difficult information**confirmation bias** – the tendency to look for and interpret information to support one’s views**coverage bias** – the spotlighting of what people should know and the focusing of their attention on certain topics**focus group** – a small group of individuals with similar traits that is gathered for a research interview**interest group** – a well-organized group of people with a shared identifying interest that attempts to influence the legislative process**iron triangle** – a figurative relationship among Congress, bureaucracy, and interest groups**issue advocacy** – an advertisement that supports a cause and raises awareness of a specific interest**lobbying** – the organized process of influencing legislation or policy**party platform** – the ideas and beliefs that a party stands for and wishes to enact**political action committee (PAC)** – a private group that raises and distributes funds for use in election campaigns**political communication** – the methods used by politicians to form and transmit messages to the public**political participation** – the activities through which people develop and express their opinions about the world and how it is governed, and try to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives**political process** – the shaping of public policy that results from the interactions of government and public opinion**private institution** – an independent organization owned by a non-state entity, such as a firm, business enterprise, or individual**public institution** – a large organization controlled by any level of government and paid for by public money**public opinion** – the general view of the people**public opinion poll** – a series of questions presented to the public that are designed to gather information that represents the opinions of the population**selective exposure** – the theory that people tend to look for information that aligns with their views and ideology |
| Lesson 15 | **conservative** – a political philosophy that supports socially traditional ideas, free enterprise, and private ownership**cross-cutting cleavage** – a division in society that occurs when people are part of opposing political or social demographics**demographic** – a specific characteristic having to do with human populations, often as an identifying feature**gender gap** – the difference in the percentage of women and the percentage of men voting for a particular candidate or issue in a particular political race**intersectionality** – the interconnected nature of different groups and how that interconnectedness can create disadvantages or discrimination or alter stratification efforts**liberal** – a political philosophy that supports individual rights, civil liberties, democracy, and free enterprise**political identity** – the location of a person on the political spectrum. Political identity is shaped by several influences including family background, geographic region of the country, and personal experiences.**political ideology** – a system of beliefs, ideas, or values that serve as the foundation of how a government should function and as a guide for policy initiatives**political socialization** – the learning process by which people acquire their political opinions, beliefs, and values**socioeconomic** – a term used to describe people’s social and economic situations**stratification** – the arrangement of something into different groups |
| Unit 6: Governments and Policies |
| Lesson 2 | **bureaucracy** – the group of departments, agencies, and commissions that make up the executive branch**checks and balances** – the power and the ability given to each of the three branches of government to check the others to ensure that no one branch obtains excessive, unchecked power**critique** – to question or analyze something for the purpose of improving**Department of Defense** – the department that protects the nation and organizes the military**executive branch** – the federal and the state branches of government that enforce laws**federal government** – the national level of government**federal system of government** – a national government that shares some responsibilities and powers with the state governments, but is ultimately seen as the supreme law**federalism** – a system of government where the same territory is controlled by two levels of government with one overarching national government**judicial branch** – the federal and the state branches of government that interpret laws**jurisdiction** – the territory where a court or government agency can exercise its power**legislative branch** – the federal and the state branches of government that pass laws**local government** – a government, including cities, municipalities, and counties, designed for serving local citizens on a small scale and focusing on municipal and local services**municipal** – relating to the running of a town**proxy** – in place of**state government** – a government designed for managing state-level affairs, including maintaining state highways, upholding state laws, and collecting taxes**veto** – a rejection of a proposal, such as a bill |
| Lesson 3 | **at large** – elected as a whole**city/town commission** – the five to seven people who are individually elected to serve together as both the lawmakers and those who make sure the laws are executed**city/town council** – the people who are elected to enact laws for the city/town**city/town manager** – the person who is hired by the city or town to make sure the laws are enforced and the government runs smoothly**constituent** – a person who resides within an elected official’s state or district**county** – the largest of the local government divisions**excise tax** – a tax on specific items that are purchased, most commonly tobacco, alcohol, and gasoline**executive** – the person/branch of government in charge of enforcing laws**federalism** – the system of government in which a national government shares some responsibilities and powers with the state governments but is ultimately seen as the supreme law**infrastructure** – the public works that include transportation systems (roads, bridges, railroads, airports) and water systems essential for economic activity**labor** – the work, especially hard work; or, the workers**legislative** – the people/branch of government in charge of creating the laws**mayor** – a person who is elected to be the head of a city or town**municipality** – provides the governance of a local area, smaller than a county; examples include cities, towns, and villages**ordinances** – laws passed by a local government**resident** – a person who permanently lives somewhere**revenue** – the income received**sales tax** – a tax on items sold**school board** – elected citizens who make decisions to administer the local school system**special district** – a form of local government that provides one special service or type of services not covered by the county or municipality**tax** – a compulsory contribution made by residents to federal, state, or local revenue for goods, services, or some other transaction**township** – a type of local government that is a smaller division of a county in some states |
| Lesson 4 | **A Century of Dishonor** – a book that highlights the treatment of several Indigenous American tribes at the hands of the United States government**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)** – the primary agency responsible for policies related to Indigenous Americans**Indian Citizenship Act of 1924** – the act that granted citizenship to all Indigenous people who had not already become citizens**Indian Removal Act** – a law passed by Congress designed to move Indigenous Americans from the areas in the eastern United States to the West**Indigenous Americans** – the first inhabitants of the Americas, prior to European explorers’ travels**McGirt v. Oklahoma** – the Supreme Court decision that determined that large portions of the state of Oklahoma were still considered to be part of the reservations of several tribes**sovereignty** – a person or government’s right to rule themselves**Trail of Tears** – the dangerous and deadly journey of the Cherokees from their traditional lands to present day Oklahoma**treaty** – an agreement between two or more sovereign nations**Treaty of Tellico** – an agreement between the U.S. government and the Cherokee Nation that gave Cherokee land to the U.S. government |
| Lesson 5 | **adoption** – the stage of the policy-making process where you try to get people to agree to your solution or policy idea**agenda setting** – the first step in the policy-making process, which involves getting people to pay attention to a problem**buy-in** – the idea that people in the policy-making process are invested in and agree to the policy**demographic** – a specific characteristic having to do with human populations, often as an identifying feature**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – the agency in charge of conducting research and implementing regulations to ensure the protection of the environment**evaluation** – the critiquing of a policy by looking at how it was met with predetermined standards or outcomes**excise tax** – a tax added to the value of a good or service**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – the federal government agency tasked with helping people in the United States before, during, and after natural disasters and other emergencies**federalism** – a constitutional division of power between national and regional governments**formulation** – the second step of the policy-making process that deals with coming up with a solution to the problem**implementation** – the step in the policy-making process that requires coming up with procedures or actions for individuals, groups, or teams to perform**intended impact** – a desired outcome in a government decision made to improve or protect the public**Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** – a government agency responsible for collecting taxes and administering tax laws**progressive tax** – a tax that increases the burden on an individual or business who has an increase in income or revenue**property tax** – a tax assessed on the value of property**regressive tax** – a tax that poses a bigger burden on those individuals and businesses that make less money**reserved power** – a power that is kept by the states; reserved powers are protected by the Tenth Amendment**taxes** – a transfer of money from individuals and businesses to the government**unintended impact** – an unexpected result in a government decision made to improve or protect the public**user fee** – a tax based on the use of something |
| Lesson 6 | **capital gains** – tax collected by the federal and some state governments on any capital gains or profits made by people or businesses from the sale of certain assets including stocks, bonds, or real estate**central bank** – a financial institution given control over the production and distribution of money and credit for a nation or a group of nations**consumer price index (CPI)** – a measure of prices of goods and services within the economy**corporate tax** – a type of tax collected by the federal government that is imposed on the profit of a business**discount rate** – the rate of interest that a central bank charges on its loans and advances to a commercial bank; also known as the bank rate**economic indicator** – a macroeconomic measurement used by analysts to understand current and future economic activity and opportunity**excise tax** – a tax on specific items that are purchased, such as gasoline and airfare**federal funds rate** – the interest rate that commercial banks charge each other for overnight loans**Federal Reserve System** – the central bank of the United States responsible for regulating member banks as well as formulating monetary policy; serves as bank for the federal government and is also known as “the Fed”**fiscal policy** – the power to tax and spend**gross domestic product (GDP)** – a dollar measure of the goods produced by the economy**income tax** – a tax collected by the federal and some state governments on financial income generated by individuals and businesses**inflation** – a condition of the economy in which prices become so high that purchasing power diminishes**inheritance tax** – a type of tax levied by state governments on individuals who inherit the estate of a deceased person**Internal Revenue Service** – the government agency that collects federal income taxes in the United States**macroeconomics** – the branch of economics that studies the economy as a whole**monetary policy** – the power to control the amount of money in circulation**monetary policy** – the steps a nation’s central bank takes to control the quantity of money and credit available in an economy as well as the methods by which new money is supplied**open market operations** – the activity by a central bank to give liquidity in its currency to a bank or a group of banks**progressive tax** – a tax based on the taxpayer’s ability to pay where higher tax rates apply to higher levels of income and a lower tax rate on lower-income earners**property tax** – a tax collected by a local government and paid for by the owner of a property. This tax is calculated based on property and land values.**proportional tax** – a tax system where all levels of yearly income are taxed at the same rate**recession** – a condition that occurs when there are two economic quarters of negative GDP**regressive tax** – a tax that decreases when income increases**reserve requirements** – the central bank regulation that sets the minimum amount that a commercial bank must hold in liquid assets**sales tax** – a state tax on goods or services that are consumed or purchased**sales tax** – a tax on goods or services that are consumed or purchased**tariffs** – a tax by a country on an imported good**unemployment rate**  – a measure of the percentage of individuals actually looking for employment who cannot obtain employment |
| Lesson 7 | **agenda** – a list of items that Congress will discuss and vote on**bill** – a proposal for a new law**cost-benefit analysis** – a way to analyze the effectiveness of public policy by studying whether or not it will lead to a stronger economic condition**evaluation** – the study of how well a policy works and what changes need to be made**feedback loop** – the idea that after a policy goes through the stages model it starts again**gerrymandering** – the manipulation of the boundaries of election districts to gain an unfair electoral advantage**hearing** – a meeting held by Congressional committees or subcommittees to find out what knowledgeable people think about a potential policy**implementation** – the process of enacting public policy**iron triangle** – a figurative relationship among Congress, bureaucracy, and interest groups**language minority** – a group in the United States whose primary language is not English**override** – the ability of Congress to pass a law after a president’s veto if two-thirds of each house agrees**protected class** – a defined group of people protected from discrimination by law**public policy** – the government laws and regulations designed to help solve problems**sunset provision** – a statement built into a law that provides it with an automatic expiration date**veto** – the action taken by executive heads to block legislation from continuing**vote dilution** – the use of gerrymandering to prevent racial groups from electing a candidate of their choice |
| Lesson 8 | **appropriations bill** – a bill that authorizes the spending of government funds**bureaucracy** – the group of departments, agencies, and commissions that make up the executive branch**constituents** – the voters in a local community**consumer price index (CPI)** – a measure of prices of goods and services within the economy**discretionary spending** – the spending that is done by choice and must be authorized by Congress**gross domestic product (GDP)** – a dollar measure of the goods produced by the economy**inflation** – a condition of the economy in which prices become so high that our purchasing power diminishes**line-item veto** – the rejection of parts of a bill**mandate** – an official instruction to do something**monopoly** – the exclusive possession or control of the supply of or trade in a commodity or service**nondiscretionary spending** – the spending that is automatically occurring from prior legislation**political gridlock** – a stalemate that occurs when the government is unable to act or pass laws because rival parties control different branches of government and are unable to compromise**recession** – a condition which occurs when there are two economic quarters of negative GDP**red tape** – the excessive rules and regulations made by the bureaucracy**regulatory agency** – an independent body of the government established to set standards in a specific field or industry**spoils system** – a system in which government winners reward their close supporters with government jobs**stimulus checks** – the money provided to Americans which aims to stimulate demand for goods and services resulting in higher gross domestic product**stock** – a piece of a company that is bought and sold |
| Lesson 9 | **activist group** – a collection of people who have a common interest to promote**committee** – a group of people who come together to make decisions about issues**constituent** – a voter in a local community**domestic policy** – the set of public policies that address problems within a country’s borders**emissions** – dangerous gasses that are released into the environment**foreign policy** – how a nation’s government deals with other nations**interstate commerce** – trade between states**lobbyist** – a person who is paid to work on behalf of a company or industry to promote their interests**primary source**  – a first-hand account of something happening at the time**public policy** – government laws and regulations designed to help solve problems**public transit systems** – ways of transporting the public, such as buses, trains, and subways**secondary source** – someone’s interpretation or analysis of primary sources**stakeholder** – an individual who has a particular interest in an issue**subsidize** – provide public money |
| Lesson 10 | **cabinet** – the major advisors to the president; made up mostly of the secretaries that control the various departments in the executive branch**checks and balances** – the powers and the ability to check the other branches are given to each one of these three branches to ensure that no one section of the government could obtain excessive unchecked power**diplomacy** – working on international relations with other countries**executive branch** – the branch of government that enforces laws, consisting of the president, a cabinet appointed by the president, and various agencies and advisors**foreign policy** – a policy that dictates how a nation’s government deals with other nations**globalization** – a term that describes how the economy, ideas, and cultures among different countries are interconnected**internationalism** – supporting political and economic cooperation with other countries**isolationism** – remaining separate from other countries in political affairs and interests**judicial branch** – the branch of government that interprets laws, consisting of the U.S. Supreme Court and federal court system**judicial review** – the ability of the judiciary to determine if actions of the U.S. Congress, president, administrative agencies, and states are in agreement with the U.S. Constitution**legislative branch** – the branch of government that passes laws, consisting of the two houses of Congress**lobbyi**ng – the organized process of influencing legislation or policy**national security advisor** – an individual appointed by the president to advise on matters of national security**original jurisdiction** – the authority of the court to hear cases for the first time based on evidence**sanctuary city** – a community that does not enforce federal immigration laws**secretary of defense** – the head of the defense department who is responsible for overseeing the military branches**secretary of state** – the head of the state department who is responsible for diplomatic relations**United Nations** – an intergovernmental organization that aims to preserve world peace and develop international cooperation among nations |