**American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics**

Unit 2 – The Constitution, Executive, and Legislative Branches

**Overview**

Our second unit will focus on the creation and details of the constitution. We will look at readings, current events, unit packets, short video clips, and discussion to better understand the major concepts associated with the material. Each unit will include objectives, details about assessments, and our daily plans. It is expected that you will complete the homework and be prepared for each class session. Additional copies of the unit plans and packets are on the class website (https://learningandunlearning.weebly.com).

**Objectives**

* Analyze the structure of national, state, and local governments
* Evaluate the U.S. Constitution as a “living Constitution” in terms of how the words in the Constitution and Bill of Rights have been interpreted and applied throughout their existence.
* Compare the Constitutions and the structures of the United States and North Carolina governments.
* Compare United States system of government within the framework of the federal and state structures as well as in how they relate with governmental systems of other nations.
* Evaluate the authority federal, state and local governments have over individuals’ rights and privileges.
* Analyze contemporary issues and governmental responses at the local, state, and national levels in terms of how they promote the public interest and/or general welfare.
* Compare lawmaking processes of federal, state and local governments.
* Analyze national, state and local government agencies in terms of how they balance interests and resolve conflicts.
* Explain how conflict between constitutional provisions and the requirements of foreign policy are resolved.

**Assessment**

Each unit will include two different tests. Each test will include matching, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. Please be mindful that the test dates are as follows:

* Tuesday, October 28th – Constitution and the Legislative Branch
* Monday, November 18th – Constitution and the Executive Branch

**Unit Plan, Part I – Constitution and the Legislative Branch**

Monday, October 7th

Discussion: Overview: Principles and Purpose

**Homework: Complete The Six Basic Principles of the Constitution (back of first page of packet)**

Thursday, October 10th

Discussion: House of Representatives and the Senate

**Homework: Finish Political Cartoon (Ch. 10, Section 3: “The Senate”)**

Monday, October 14th

Discussion: How Congress is organized

**Homework: Complete assignment for Current Events Articles on Impeachment (More**

**Information will be shared in class.)**

Wednesday, October 16th

Discussion: Powers of Congress

**Homework: Complete p. 17 (Guided Reading Activity 6-3, “Representing People”.)**

Friday, October 18th

Discussion: How A Bill becomes A Law

**Homework: Finish Guided Reading Activity 6-4. “How A Bill becomes A Law.”**

Tuesday, October 22nd

Discussion: Movie (Mr. Smith Goes to Washington)

**Homework: Complete the Worksheet titled “What is Gerrymander?” Answer the two questions on   
additional paper. (You will be turning this in).**

Thursday, October 24th

Discussion: Finish Movie and Review for Test

**Homework: Study for Test**

Monday, October 28th

TEST #1 Constitution and Legislative Branch

**Homework: Complete p. 19 in packet, “Role of Congress in Foreign Policy”. Answer the   
 questions on additional paper. You will be turning this in.**

**Unit Plan, Part II – Executive Power**

Wednesday, October 30th

Discussion: The Presidency: What do you know?

Electing the President

**Homework: Complete p. 23 in packet, (Chapter Skills Activity 7, “Reading an Election Map.”)**

Monday, November 4th

Discussion: Roles of the President, Part I.

**Homework: Complete p. 35 in packet (Guided Reading Activity 7-3, “Making Foreign Policy”)**

Wednesday, November 6th

Discussion: Roles of the President, Part II.

**Homework: Complete p. 21 in packet (Vocabulary Activity 7, “President and the Executive   
Branch.”)**

Friday, November 8th

Discussion: The Federal Bureaucracy, Part I

**Homework: p. 31 in packet (Enrichment Activity 7, “Presidential Succession.”)**

Tuesday, November 12th

Discussion: The Federal Bureaucracy, Part II

**Homework: Go through completed sheets in the packet and underline 50 unit terms.**

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| Thursday, November 14th |

Discussion: Review for Test

**Homework: Study for Test**

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| Monday, November 18th |

Test #2. The Constitution and Executive Branch