



The Principles of the U.S. Constitution

8th Grade American Studies

2012-2013

Unit 1

Direct Democracy

A system of government in which ALL citizens are able to have a voice / vote in the governmental decision-making process

Direct Democracy

Examples:

- ❖ *Local Elections*
- ❖ *Initiatives, Referendums, & Recalls*

- ❖ *Originated in Ancient Greece*

Representative Democracy

A type of government in which people choose delegates to act on their behalf for carrying out “government responsibilities”

Representative Democracy

Examples:

- *United States Congress (House of Rep. & Senate)*
- *State level – Ohio Senate & Ohio General Assembly*
- *City councilmen / County Commissioners*
- *Modeled after the Roman Republic*

Federalism

A system in which powers and responsibilities are BOTH split AND shared between the National government and State / Local governments.

Federalism

Examples:

Shared: *Law Enforcement*
Collection of taxes

Split: *States – BMV's, Schools*
National – Military,
Treaties, Interstate
Commerce

Bicameralism

The idea that the legislature is made up of TWO (2) Houses (or bodies)

Bicameralism

Example:

- ◇ *The U.S. Congress is made up of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES and THE SENATE*

Separation of Powers

The idea of dividing powers and responsibilities among different branches of the government so as to make sure that no one branch has any more power than the others

Separation of Powers

Example:

- ◇ *Legislative Branch – makes the laws*
- ◇ *Executive Branch – Carries out / enforces the laws*
- ◇ *Judicial Branch – Interprets the laws*

Checks & Balances

A series of “checks” or limits placed on the branches of government to make sure that power is evenly “balanced” among the three branches

Checks & Balances

Examples:

- ◇ *Presidential Veto*
- ◇ *Supreme Court's power of Judicial Review*
- ◇ *Senate Approval of Presidential Appointments*
- ◇ *All Tax Bills begin in the House of Rep.*