

Our Government Scavenger Hunt

1. Our government is a democracy. Use the dictionary to look up the word "democracy" and explain what it means.

Answer: Any dictionary entry is acceptable such as, "to rule by many."

2. The U.S. Constitution is the framework of our government. Use your textbook to find out where and when it was written.

Answer: Philadelphia in 1787

3. Use the World Book Encyclopedia to find out how and when the U. S. Constitution was approved or passed into law.

Answer: 1788 when 9 of the 13 states had ratified or approved it.

4. Our government is organized into three main branches (sections). Use the following Internet Website to find out what they are:

genxtvland.simplenet.com/SchoolHouseRock/america.hts?hi

Answer: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial

5. One main branch of our government is the Legislative Branch. Congress heads it. Use the electronic encyclopedia, Encarta, to find out how Congress is divided.

Answer: Legislature and Senate

List one important duty of this branch.

Answer: Either of the following is acceptable:

-Passes laws

-Proposes amendments to Constitution

6. Another main branch of our government is the Executive Branch. Use the Internet to locate the Website:

Grolier.com/presidents/nbk/side/usgov.html

Find out who heads this branch.

Answer: President

List two of his duties.

Answer: Any two is acceptable:

-Commander-in-Chief

-Sees that laws are carried out

-Makes treaties

- Appoints ambassadors, justices, and others*
- Gives State of the Union message each year*

7. The last main branch of our government is the Judicial Branch. Use The First Book of the Constitution by Richard B. Morris or the Website: Grolier.com/presidents/nbk/side/usgov.html to find out who heads this branch.

Answer: The Supreme Court

List this branch's main duty.

Answer: Declare laws unconstitutional or invalid

8. Using the site in number 7, name one example of how our government promotes "common good" for its citizens.

Answer: Services for citizens such as free education, roads, protection rights through the collection of taxes

9. Using the site in number 7, name one example of an individual right that our government protects.

Answer: Freedom of religion, speech, right to bear arms, etc.