

Grade 12: United States Government

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

- 1 Define government; contrast limited government and unlimited government; recognize documents and individuals who helped shape the government of the United States.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.1](#)
 - a Identify key philosophers, including Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu, and Jean Jacques Rousseau. [SS.USG.AAS.12.1A](#)
 - b Identify key documents, including Magna Carta, Petition of Rights, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, and the Virginia Declaration of Rights. [SS.USG.AAS.12.1B](#)
 - c Identify the Great Awakening. [SS.USG.AAS.12.1C](#)

- 2 Recognize the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.2](#)
 - a Place into chronological order key political events of the American Revolution. [SS.USG.AAS.12.2A](#)

- 3 Identify the major purposes of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.3](#)
 - a Outline the possible paths taken to ratify an amendment to the Constitution. [SS.USG.AAS.12.3A](#)

- 4 Define federalism; describe how powers are divided between the federal and state governments.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.4](#)

- 5 Identify the responsibilities of state and local governments.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.5](#)

- 6 Understand the importance of voting and the expansion of voting rights; identify ways in which voting rights have expanded to be more inclusive and increase participation in the political system.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.6](#)
 - a Identify key constitutional amendments and laws that have allowed for the expansion of the right to vote. [SS.USG.AAS.12.6A](#)
 - b Identify key obstacles imposed during the Jim Crow era to limit suffrage rights. [SS.USG.AAS.12.6B](#)
 - c Identify key events in the Civil Rights Movement that led to the expansion of suffrage rights. [SS.USG.AAS.12.6C](#)

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- 7 Understand that public officials are elected to office; recognize that elections are held at the local, state, and national level.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.7](#)
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- 8 Understand that candidates for public office are often supported by groups of people called “special-interest groups” and “political action committees.”** [SS.USG.AAS.12.8](#)
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- 9 Identify ways candidates can get their message out to voters and ways voters can learn about candidates.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.9](#)
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- 10 Define political party and describe its job; identify and contrast the major political parties in the United States--Republican, Democratic, and/or nonaffiliated parties (Independent).** [SS.USG.AAS.12.10](#)
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- 11 Define legislative branch of government; identify the major roles and/or responsibilities of the legislative branch of government, recognize the legislative branch is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate and identify the differences between them.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.11](#)
- a** List in chronological order the steps by which a bill becomes a law. [SS.USG.AAS.12.11A](#)
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- 12 Define executive branch of government; identify the major roles and responsibilities of the executive branch of government; recognize that the executive branch is headed by the president of the United States.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.12](#)
- a** Classify presidential powers as either constitutional, informal, or symbolic. [SS.USG.AAS.12.12A](#)
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- 13 Define judicial branch of government; identify the major roles and responsibilities of the judicial branch of government; recognize that the judicial branch is a court system with the Supreme Court serving as the highest court in the land.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.13](#)
- a** Identify the effect by which landmark decisions change the interpretation of constitutional provisions and rights. [SS.USG.AAS.12.13A](#)
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- 14 Understand that citizens have rights and responsibilities; recognize rights that citizens are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.14](#)
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- 15 Define and contrast domestic policy and foreign policy and recognize examples of each.** [SS.USG.AAS.12.15](#)