

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Student Book

▶ **2nd Grade** | Unit 5

OUR GOVERNMENT CLOSE TO HOME

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 205

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LIFEPAC Test | **Pull-out**

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OUR GOVERNMENT CLOSE TO HOME

An illustration of a man with dark hair and orange-rimmed glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is standing behind a brown podium with two microphones. He is smiling. Surrounding him are various media devices: a hand holding a smartphone on the left, a boom microphone with a pink label on the top left, a boom microphone with a red 'M' label on the top right, a hand holding a microphone with a red 'TV' label on the right, and a hand holding a smartphone on the bottom right. There are also some black circular objects on the podium. The background is a light blue color with white starburst effects.

You have learned that the Constitution created our national government. In an earlier unit, you studied the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights includes the first ten amendments to the Constitution. The Tenth Amendment gives any powers that are not part of the federal government to the states. State and local governments are in charge of many of the things we use every day. Our local governments help take care of our schools, police and fire departments, libraries, museums, parks, and more.

Our state governments have three branches just like the federal government. They are the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches. In this unit, you will learn more about your state and local governments. You will also learn some of your responsibilities as an American citizen.

Objectives

Read these objectives. They will tell what you will be able to do when you have finished this LIFEPAAC®.

1. Tell about the three levels of government: federal, state, and local.
2. Tell about the three branches of state governments.
3. Tell about your county government and your county seat.
4. Tell about your state leaders and state government.
5. Describe the governments of cities, towns, and villages.
6. Describe what it means to be a citizen of the United States.
7. List at least three duties you have as an American citizen.

New Words

These words will appear in **boldface** (darker print) the first time they are used.

alien (ā' lē ən). Someone from another country who is not a citizen.

ancestor (än' sēs tər). A relative who lived in the past, such as a great-grandfather.

appeal (ə pēl'). To ask a higher court to take another look at a case.

bicameral (bī kām' ər əl). Having two houses or chambers in the legislative branch.

bill (bīl). A suggestion for a law; a rough draft of a law.

borough (bûr' ō). Another name for a county, used in Alaska.

budget (bŭj' ĭt). A plan for how to spend money.

candidate (kǎn' dǐ dāt). A person who runs for public office.

chamber (chām' bər). Another name for a house in the legislative branch of government.

citizenship (sīt' ǐ zən shǐp). The right of being a citizen.

commissioner (kə mǐsh' ə nər). The name given to certain government officials.

committee (kə mīt' ē). A group of people assigned to do a certain job.

deed (dēd). A document showing ownership of property.

delegate (děl' ǐ gīt). A person who acts for another person or group of people.

district (dīs' trīkt). An area set apart for a purpose.

employee (ēm ploi' ē). A person who works for someone else for pay.

exchange student (ǐks chānj' stōōd nt). A student who comes from another country to go to school.

illegal (ǐ lē' gəl). Against the law.

immigrants (ǐm' ǐ grənts). People who come from another country to settle in a new country.

juvenile (jōō' və nəl). Having to do with children or teens.

legal (lē' gəl). Lawful or obeying the law.

legislator (ləj' ǐ slā tər). A representative of the legislative branch.

manage (mǎn' ǐj). To take charge of or lead.

manager (mǎn' ǐjər). Someone who leads or handles business.

model (mōd' l). An example used to create something new.

motto (mōt' ō). A statement used to stand for the ideas of a group.

municipal (myŭōō nĭs' ə pəl). A local type of government.

naturalized (năch' ə r ə lĭzd). Given the rights of a citizen.

officer (ŏf' ĭ sər). Someone who has an important or respected job.

ordinance (ôr' dn əns). A command or order; a type of rule or law.

parish (păr' ĭsh). Another name for a county, used in Louisiana.

propose (prə pōz'). To suggest.

renew (rĭ nōō'). To make new again.

retry (rē trĭ'). To take a case to court another time.

task (tăsk). A job or duty.

unicameral (yōō nĭ kă m' ə r əl). Having one house or chamber in the legislative branch.

veto (vē' tō). To refuse to pass a law.

volunteer (vŏl ə n tĭr'). To freely give one's time; someone who gives his or her time without pay.

warrant (wôr ənt). A legal order from the court.



1. OUR STATE GOVERNMENTS

Each state already had its own government before the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution. The framers used these state governments as **models**, or examples, to help create a national government. The Constitution gave some power to the national government and some power to the states. Each state decides how its government will be run. But state governments are also alike in many ways.

Every state has its own constitution. A state can make laws for the people living there. However, state laws must also obey the laws of the Constitution. Remember, the Constitution is the “supreme law of the land.” Let’s take a closer look at how most state governments work.



Words to Study

appeal (ə pēl’). To ask a higher court to take another look at a case.

bicameral (bī kām’ ər əl). Having two houses or chambers in the legislative branch.

bill (bīl). A suggestion for a law; a rough draft of a law.

budget (bŭj’ ĭt). A plan for how to spend money.

candidate (kăn’ dī dāt). A person who runs for public office.

chamber (chām’ bər). Another name for a house in the legislative branch of government.

delegate (děl’ ĭ gīt). A person who acts for another person or group of people.

district (dĭs' trĭkt). An area set apart for a purpose.

juvenile (jŭō' və nəl). Having to do with children or teens.

legislator (ləj' ĭ slā tər). A representative of the legislative branch.

model (mŏd' l). An example used to create something new.

motto (mŏt' ō). A statement used to stand for the ideas of a group.

officer (ŏf' ĭ sər). Someone who has an important or respected job.

propose (prə pōz'). To suggest.

retry (rē trĭ'). To take a case to court another time.

unicameral (yŭō nĭ kăm' ər əl). Having one house or chamber in the legislative branch.

veto (vē' tō). To refuse to pass a law.

Ask your teacher to say these words with you.



Teacher Check

Initial

Date

State Legislative Branch

You learned that the legislative branch of the U.S. government includes the Senate and the House of Representatives. Together, these houses make up Congress. The state legislative branch is much like this system, but the names might be different.



| Iowa State Capitol

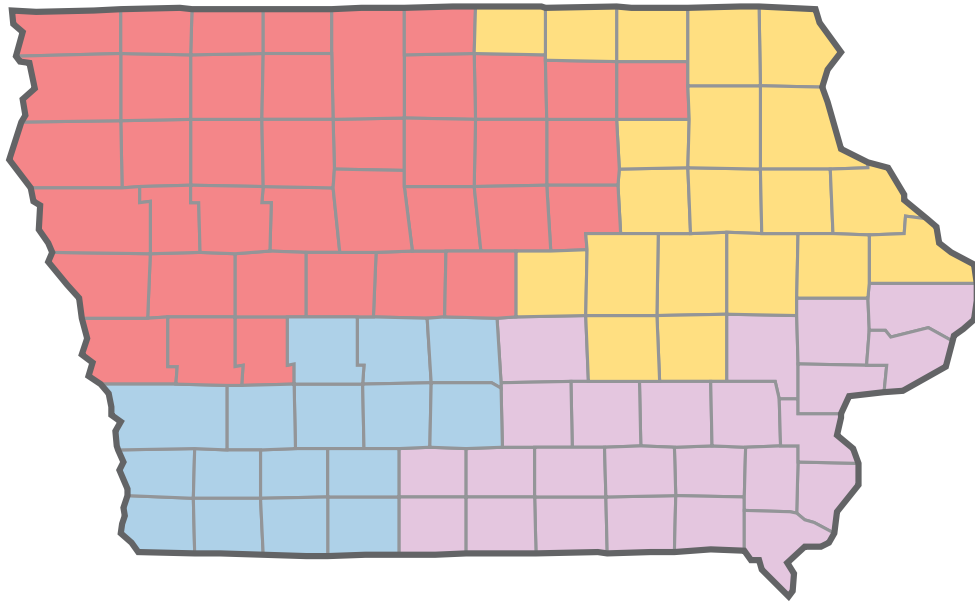
The Houses

Almost every state has two houses called **chambers**. The smaller upper chamber is the Senate. The larger lower chamber is usually called the House of Representatives. But some states call this chamber the Assembly or the House of **Delegates**. Both chambers together are sometimes called the General Assembly.



| Nebraska State Capitol

A legislative branch with two houses is a **bicameral** legislature. The state of Nebraska has one house in its legislative branch. This type of legislature is **unicameral**. Nebraska is the only state with a unicameral legislature. The elected representatives in Nebraska are called senators.



| Iowa congressional districts (in color) and counties (outlined in gray)

The Representatives

Our country has been separated into 50 states. In our national government, the number of representatives in Congress depends on the state. Likewise, every state has a number of smaller areas called **districts**. Each district has a certain number of people in it. The number of state representatives for each district is based on the population or what the state has decided. In this way, every district is fairly represented. Members of the Senate are called state senators and members of the House are called representatives, or **legislators**.

Each state constitution describes the duties of its representatives. Like Congress, the main duty of the state legislature is to pass laws for the state. Each house is given certain responsibilities. Our state governments also have a system of checks and balances so that no branch becomes too powerful.



Circle *True* if the sentence is correct or *False* if the sentence is incorrect.

- 1.1** State laws do *not* have to obey the laws of the Constitution.
 True False
- 1.2** All 50 states have a bicameral legislature—two houses.
 True False
- 1.3** The main job of the state legislative branch is to make laws.
 True False
- 1.4** State governments have a system of checks and balances.
 True False



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 1.5** States are separated into smaller areas called _____.
 a. districts b. delegates c. chambers
- 1.6** Almost every state has two houses in its legislative branch called _____.
 a. districts b. delegates c. chambers

STUDY PROJECT:

My State Government—Part 1

In an earlier unit, you studied your national leaders. Now, you will learn about your state leaders. Ask your teacher to help you find out about your state legislature. On a piece of paper, write the title “My State Legislature.” Then, write two facts about your legislature. Use the questions below to help you decide what to write.

- How many houses, or chambers, do you have in your legislative branch?
- What are the names of your legislative houses?
- How many representatives are in your state legislature?
- What are the names of your district representatives?

Save this assignment, because you will add more leaders later in this unit.



Teacher Check _____

Initial

Date

SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Choose the correct word from the list to complete the sentence. Write the word on the blank. Cross out words as you use them. Not all words will be used.

appeals
districts

attorney general
governor

juvenile
models

chambers
delegates

- 1.01** The framers used state governments as _____ to help create the national government.
- 1.02** The houses of a state legislature are also called _____.
- 1.03** Every state is separated into a number of _____.
- 1.04** The head of the state executive branch is the _____.
- 1.05** State supreme courts often settle _____ cases.

Write *True* in the blank if the statement is true or *False* if it is false.

- 1.06** _____ All governors choose their executive officers.
- 1.07** _____ All states have a judicial branch of government.

Match these words with their meanings. Write the correct letter in the blank.

1.08 _____ bicameral

1.09 _____ unicameral

a. two houses in the legislative branch

b. one house in the legislative branch

Circle the answer that correctly completes the statement.

1.010 The executive officer who acts as a lawyer for the state government is the _____ .

- a. secretary of state
- b. attorney general
- c. governor

1.011 The main duty of the state legislature is to _____ .

- a. veto bills
- b. appeal cases
- c. pass laws

1.012 The state supreme court settles _____ .

- a. appeals
- b. budgets
- c. bills

1.013 Another word for state representatives is _____ .

- a. districts
- b. officers
- c. legislators

1.014 Nebraska is the only state that has a _____ legislature.

- a. bicameral
- b. unicameral
- c. district

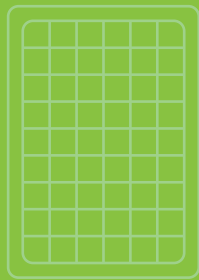
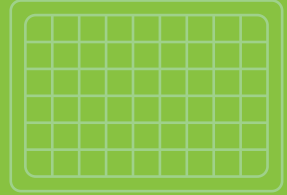


Teacher Check

Initial Date



My Score



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