

## West Virginia Studies Resource Development

<b>Title of Lesson:</b> <b>CIVICS</b>
<b>Grade level:</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Summary: Students will be able to compare and contrast the United States Constitution with the current West Virginia Constitution.</b>
<b>WV CCR Social Studies Standards</b> <b>SS.8.2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate how citizens can influence and participate in government at the local, state and national levels and assume the role of an active citizen participating in the democratic process (e.g., lobbying, voting, community service, letter writing, and school elections)</li></ul> <b>SS.8.3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify, analyze, and evaluate the responsibilities, privileges, and rights of citizens of the state of West Virginia found in the state and national constitutions</li></ul>
<b>Essential Questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In what ways is the U.S. Constitution the same as the WV Constitution?</li></ul>
<b>Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Textbook</li><li>• Pencil</li><li>• Notebook paper</li><li>• Venn Diagram</li></ul>
<b>Learning Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have students to answer the six questions comparing the West Virginia Government to the United States Government (15 minutes)</li><li>• Pair /Share answers with another student</li><li>• Divide students into groups of two and have them compare the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution to the Preamble of the WV Constitution putting information into a Venn Diagram (15 minutes)</li><li>• Share out in a whole group with a whole class Venn Diagram on white board, poster board, or smartboard (10 minutes)</li><li>• Give each group a copy of the vocabulary match-up to complete so they become familiar with the vocabulary needed to understand government</li></ul>
<b>Checking for Understanding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion of questions</li><li>• Venn Diagram completion</li><li>• Vocabulary Match-up</li><li>• Exit Slip (What is the importance of having constitution?)</li></ul>

**Accommodations:**

**Pair struggling readers with better readers and allow discussion for better comprehension.**

## Comparing the West Virginia Government to the United States Government

Branches of Government	United States Government	West Virginia Government
<b>Executive Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President is the leader of the United States</li> <li>• Elected by the electoral college</li> <li>• Serves four year terms</li> <li>• Can serve up to two terms</li> <li>• Must be 35 years old</li> <li>• Must be a natural born citizen of the United States</li> <li>• Must be a resident of the United States for 14 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor is the head of the state</li> <li>• Elected by the people for 4 year terms</li> <li>• Can serve up to two terms</li> <li>• Must be 30 years old</li> <li>• Must be a resident of the state for 5 years</li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is bicameral</li> <li>• 435 members of the House of Representatives / Serves for two year terms / Unlimited number of terms</li> <li>• Must be 25 years old and live in the state in which they represent for at least 7 years</li> <li>• 100 members of the Senate (2 per state) / Elected for 6 year terms / Unlimited number of terms</li> <li>• Must be 30 years of age and live in the state in which they represent for at least 9 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicameral</li> <li>• 100 members of the House of Delegates / Serves for 2 years terms / Unlimited number of terms</li> <li>• Must be 18 years old and live in the district they represent</li> <li>• 34 Senators / Serves for a 4 year term / Unlimited number of terms</li> <li>• Must be 25 years old and live in the district they represent</li> </ul>
<b>Judicial Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court has a chief justice and 8 associate justices</li> <li>• Justices are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate to a lifetime appointment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals has a chief justice and 4 associate justices</li> <li>• Justices are elected by the people every 12 years</li> </ul>

**Directions:** Use the chart to answer the following questions comparing our state government to the federal government.

1. What is the title of the chart?
2. What are the names of the branches of government?
3. How many total members does each legislative branch have? Which one has the most?
4. What is the difference between the terms served between the state and federal government?
5. What is the differences between the Executive branch of the state and federal government?
6. What are the differences between the U.S. Supreme Court and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals?