

THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

#3401

Grades 5-Up

Running Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Almost Painless Guide to the U.S. Constitution uses contemporary video footage, archival video footage and photographs, original graphics, and dialog narration to provide students in grades five and up with information on the U.S. Constitution.

The program examines the inception of the Constitution as it succeeded the Articles of Confederation. It discusses the importance of the Constitution as the foundation of a federal system of government and the concept of "We the People- as the ultimate authority.

The articles of the Constitution that defined the three branches of government are discussed, as is the concept of "checks and balances."

The Preamble is explored in depth, as are the first ten amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments to the Constitution.

The program concludes with "The Almost Painless Review," which offers an excellent synopsis of the entire program. Also, a Video Quiz is provided prior to the closing credits in order to help you assess student comprehension immediately following the video presentation.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the program The Almost Painless Guide to the U.S. Constitution, students should be able to:

- * Identify the essential ideas of American constitutional government.
- * Identify that the people are sovereign; they are the ultimate source of power.
- * Identify that the Constitution is a higher law that authorizes a government of limited powers.
- * Identify the purposes of government, as stated in the Preamble, as:

- To form a more perfect union,
- To establish justice,
- To insure domestic tranquillity,
- To provide for the common defense,
- To promote the general welfare,
- To secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

- Describe the means of limiting the powers of government under the Constitution.
- Explain how the following provisions of the Constitution give government the power it needs to fulfill the purposes for which it was established:

- Delegate or enumerate powers (Articles I, II, and III)
- The General welfare provision (Article I, Section 8)
- The necessary and proper clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18)

- * Define the separation and sharing of powers.
- * Define checks and balances.
- * Define the Bill of Rights.
- * Explain how specific provisions of the Constitution (Bill of Rights, etc.) limit the powers of government in order to protect the rights of individuals.

For more information, contact

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THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO THE ELECTION PROCESS

#1823

Grades 5-Up

Running Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Almost Painless Guide to the Election Process uses contemporary video footage, archival video footage and photographs, original graphics, and dialog narration to provide students in grades five and up with information on the election process.

The program explores the qualifications needed to vote or become a candidate, including the concept of citizenship and how it applies to running for political office and voting eligibility.

It explains political parties and their diversify and usefulness in presenting candidates to the public.

Time is also spent detailing platforms that were significant in United States electoral history, such as suffrage. The 15th, 19th, and 26th, amendments, and how they expanded voting rights, are explained in detail.

The significance of the different types of elections is covered - including general, primary, initiative, and recall elections. The purpose of the Electoral College and its role in electing the president is also clarified.

Throughout, emphasis is placed on the involvement of citizens in each step of the process, such as grass roots campaigning and citizen involvement.

The program concludes with "The Almost Painless Review," which offers an excellent synopsis of the entire program. Also, a Video Quiz is provided prior to the closing credits.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the program The Almost Painless Guide to the Election Process, students should be able to:

Explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process

Describe the role of political parties

Describe various kinds of elections, i.e. primary and general, local and state, congressional, presidential, recall

Explain ways individuals can participate in political parties, campaigns, and elections

**THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

#3320

Grades 5-Up

Running Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Almost Painless Guide to the Branches of the Government: The Executive Branch uses contemporary footage, archival footage and photographs, original graphics, and dialog narration to provide students in grades five and up with information on the Executive Branch of the federal government.

Although the program focuses on the executive branch, it is considered in context with the legislative branch and the judicial branch to examine how each branch checks the others to create a balance of power.

The program looks at the United States Constitution as the foundation of federal government and the concept of "We the People" as the ultimate authority. The system of checks and balances is examined in detail with various graphic and video examples provided. Additionally, we see how power is divided between state and federal governments.

The creation of the executive branch and the office of the President is studied along with the powers and responsibilities that the office entails. We also look at the requirements of the Presidency, how he is elected, the process of impeachment, and the role the Vice-President plays in the executive branch.

The program concludes with "The Almost Painless Review," which offers an excellent synopsis of the entire program. Also, a Video Quiz is provided after the closing credits.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the videotape, The Executive Branch, students should be able to:

Define the powers of the executive branch as the power to:

- Veto laws passed by Congress;
- Nominate members of the federal judiciary.

Describe and define the following:

- The establishment by the Constitution of the executive branch;
- The powers of the executive branch,
- Requirements for holding the office of President.

**THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT
THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

#3339

Grades 5-Up

Running Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Almost Painless Guide to the Branches of the Government: The Judicial Branch uses contemporary footage, archival footage and photographs, original graphics, and dialog narration to provide students in grades five and up with information on the judicial branch of the federal government.

Although the program focuses on the judicial branch, it is considered in context with the legislative branch and the executive branch to examine how each branch checks the others to create a balance of power.

The program looks at the United States Constitution as the foundation of federal government and the concept of "We the People" as the ultimate authority. The system of checks and balances is examined in detail with various graphic and video examples provided. Additionally, we see how power is divided between state and federal governments.

The creation of the judicial branch and Supreme Court justices is studied, along with the powers and responsibilities that their positions entail. We also look at the requirements of the justices, how they are appointed and confirmed, the process of judicial review, and the impact that the Supreme Court has on our the laws and values of society.

The program concludes with "The Almost Painless Review" which offers an excellent synopsis of the entire program. Also, a Video Quiz is provided after the closing credits.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the videotape, The Judicial Branch, students should be able to:

Define the powers of the judicial branch as:

The power to overrule decisions made by lower courts

Declare laws made by Congress to be unconstitutional

Declare actions of the executive branch to be unconstitutional

Describe and define the following:

The creation and function of the judicial branch

The power of the Supreme Court to influence history and society

The appointment of justices

THE ALMOST PAINLESS GUIDE TO THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

#3358

Grades 5-Up

Running Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Almost Painless Guide to the Branches of the Government: The Legislative Branch uses contemporary footage, archival footage and photographs, original graphics, and dialog narration to provide students in grades five and up with information on the legislative branch of the federal government.

Although the program focuses on the legislative branch, it is considered in context with the executive branch and the judicial branch to examine how each branch checks the others to create a balance of power.

The program looks at the United States Constitution as the foundation of federal government and the concept of "We the People" as the ultimate authority. The system of checks and balances is examined in detail with various graphic and video examples provided. Additionally, we see how power is divided between state and federal governments.

The creation of the legislative branch and the offices of Senator and Representative are examined, along with the powers and responsibilities that their offices entail. We also look at the requirements of their positions, how they are elected, the concept of a bicameral legislature, and the "great compromise." The law-making process is also considered in a step-by-step analysis.

The program concludes with "The Almost Painless Review," which offers an excellent synopsis of the entire program. Also, a Video Quiz is provided after the closing credits.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the videotape. The Legislative Branch students should be able to:

Define the powers of the legislative branch as the power to:

- Establish committees to oversee activities of the executive branch
- Impeach the President, other members of the executive branch, and federal judges
- Pass laws over the President's veto by a two-thirds majority vote of both Houses
- Disapprove appointments made by the President
- Propose amendments to the United States Constitution

Describe and define the following:

- The creation and function of the legislative branch
- Requirements for becoming a member of Congress
- The process by which a bill becomes law
- The structure of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- The role of committees
- The role of the Speaker of the House
- The role of the Vice-President
- The powers of Congress