LESSON PLAN 2

Expansion and Use of Presidential Powers

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Government
Government

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Overview

• The United States Constitution is the governing document that the country of the United States is founded upon.

• This document was created in 1787 when delegates from the newly formed states met in Philadelphia, PA to address the issues and weaknesses of their current government structure.

• The current government structure was based on the Articles of Confederation.
Once the United States Constitution was created there were debates among states that supported and opposed the new document and government structure which called for the addition of a Bill Rights.

Once the assurance of the addition of the Bill of Rights was guaranteed many of the opposing states then lent their support leading to the ratification of the new document and government structure in 1788.
New Government Structure

• The new document, United States Constitution, created a three branch government system.

• Legislative – often considered the most powerful branch, is a bi-cameral structure with a Senate and House of Representative, which together make up the United States Congress.

• Executive – this branch consist of the President, the President Cabinet, and Advisors

• Judicial – this branch includes the Supreme Court and all the other lower federal courts
The Three Branches of U.S. Government

Legislative
- Congress
  - House of Representatives
  - Senate

Executive
- President
  - Vice President
  - Cabinet (e.g. Secretary of State)

Judicial
- Supreme Court
- Other Federal Courts
Powers and Checks and Balances
Powers

**LEGISLATIVE**

★ Makes laws
★ Approves presidential appointments
★ Two senators from each state
★ The number of congressmen is based on population

**EXECUTIVE**

★ Signs laws
★ Vetoes laws
★ Pardons people
★ Appoints federal judges
★ Elected every four years

**JUDICIAL**

★ Decides if laws are constitutional
★ Are appointed by the president
★ There are 9 justices
★ Can overturn rulings by other judges
Checks and Balances

Checks on Executive Branch:
- Can override presidential veto
- Confirms executive appointments
- Ratifies treaties
- Can declare war
- Appropriates money
- Can impeach and remove president

Checks on Legislative Branch:
- Can propose and veto laws
- Can call special sessions of Congress
- Makes appointments to federal posts
- Negotiates foreign treaties

Checks on Judicial Branch:
- Creates lower federal courts
- Can impeach and remove judges
- Can propose amendments to overrule judicial decisions
- Approves appointments of federal judges

Checks on Executive Branch:
- Can declare executive actions unconstitutional

Checks on Legislative Branch:
- Can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional
Guided Question

• Which branch negotiates treaties and which branch ratifies treaties?
• How might this check and balance protect and hinder the nation’s safety and progress?