

Social Studies

Grade 3 / Week 7

Your Week at a Glance

- Area of focus: Civics – Lesson: Levels of Government
- Area of Focus: Civics – Lesson: Local Government
- Area of Focus: Civics – Lesson: Civic Virtues: Being a Good Citizen
- STANDARDS:

SS.3.C.1.1 Explain the purpose and need for government.

SS.3.C.2.1 Identify group and individual actions of citizens that demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism, and other civic virtues.

SS.3.C.3.1 Identify the levels of government (local, state, federal).

SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.

SS.3.C.3.3 Recognize that every state has a state constitution.

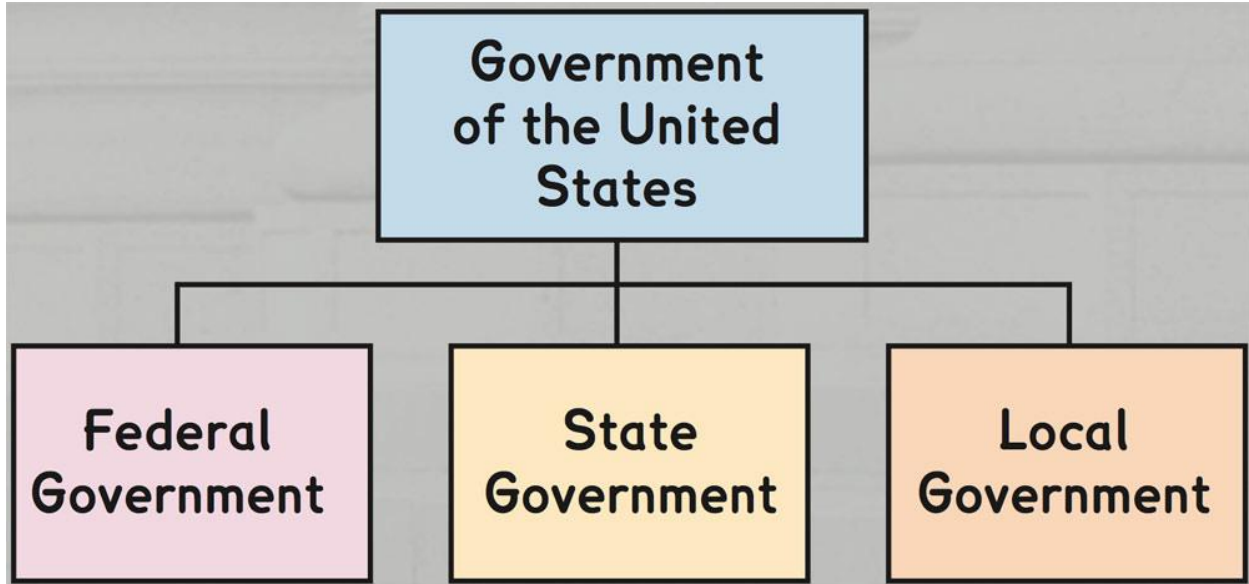
SS.3.C.3.4 Recognize that the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

- STATUTES: 1003.42 e, f, q, s, t

Name

Teacher

Levels of Government
(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 14)



The United States has three major levels of government.

Federal Government

The federal government is our national government. The national government has a lot of authority and power. However, the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says that the federal government does not have all the powers. It says the states and the people also have some powers to govern. The president and vice president are the leaders of the federal government. The federal government has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land, which means no other set of laws is more powerful. The federal government is responsible for printing money, organizing our armed forces, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, Medicare, Medicaid, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, Library of Congress, the U.S. Postal Service and much more!

State Government

Each of our 50 states has a state government. The governor and the lieutenant governor lead each state's government. The state government is modeled after the federal government and also has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. Each state has its own state constitution and is responsible for its own state Senate and state House of Representatives. (Some states use other names like the General Assembly or the House of Delegates.) Each state has a Supreme Court. If problems or

disagreements cannot be resolved, people take their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. The state government is responsible for education, state parks, drivers and marriage licenses, birth certificates, building codes, business licenses and job certificates.

Local Government

Within each state, there are many counties. (In Louisiana they are called parishes and in Alaska they are called boroughs.) Most people have more contact with their local government than their state or federal government. There are many cities, towns, villages and townships within a state. The state's constitution defines what people should call each local municipality.

Mayors and city council members lead the local government. The local government is responsible for parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, city courts, transportation services (including public transportation such as buses), public works (streets, sewers, garbage removal, street signs), libraries and schools.

Veterans Day History

Do you know someone who has served in the military? Chances are you may even know someone who is serving our country overseas right now. Soldiers who have served in the armed forces are called veterans. Every year we celebrate a holiday to remember and appreciate the men and women who have served our country. We call this holiday Veterans Day. Read on to find out how this holiday started.

World War I lasted more than four years, 1914 to 1918, and people thought it was the "war to end all wars." Finally, leaders of the countries involved in the war signed an armistice. An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting. The leaders signed the armistice on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. in France. World War I was finally over!

Americans were very happy about the armistice! There was no more war and soldiers could return home to their families. People celebrated by dancing and singing in the streets. They thought there would never be another world war.

President Wilson was the first to announce that every Nov. 11 would be known as Armistice Day. This was to honor the veterans and the end of World War I. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 each year, people stopped what they were doing and held a moment of silence to remember all of the veterans who died in war.

Unfortunately, the United States has been in more wars, including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and others. The U.S. Congress later changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day. This is to honor all veterans of all wars. Americans continue to fight in wars to help other countries and to preserve our freedom. We remember and honor all veterans of the armed forces every year on Veterans Day. The armed forces include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

One way we honor our veterans is by holding a service each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. We also know The Tomb of the Unknowns as The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb contains the remains of unknown soldiers who died in American wars. Soldiers from the 3rd United States Infantry guard the tomb 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

On June 4, 1926, the U.S. Congress passed a formal statement that said people should honor veterans of World War I every Nov. 11, the day World War I ended. Congress also requested that the president make a yearly announcement inviting U.S. citizens to commemorate (remember and honor) these veterans on Armistice Day.

In 1926, the U.S. Congress passed the Armistice Day statement. However, 27 state legislatures had already made Nov. 11 a legal holiday.

In 1954, the 83rd U.S. Congress rewrote an earlier law that made Armistice Day a legal (national) holiday. Congress changed the word “Armistice” to “Veterans” to honor all veterans of all wars.

On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the law, and Nov. 11 became a day to honor all American veterans of all wars.

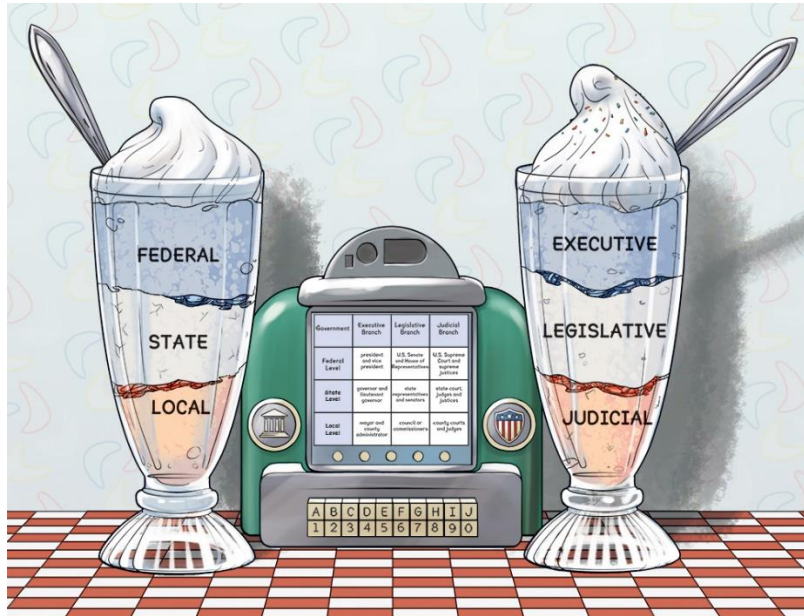
Think and Review

1. Why do you think it is important for students to learn about Veterans Day?

2. Why do you think most people interact with their local government more than their state or federal government?

3. How are Armistice Day and Veterans Day different?

Local Government (adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 17)



Wow! These parfaits look good enough to eat! Don't you wish that lessons about government tasted as good as dessert? You might be wondering why we have pictures of parfaits in a newspaper about government. Well, the parfaits have layers. Did you know that government also has layers, or levels? You have learned that there are three levels, or types, of government. Can you remember what the three levels are called?

Did you say that the three levels of government are federal, state and local? You did a great job! Just like parfaits, the federal, state and local governments have layers, or different parts. These parts are usually called "branches," and they make up each type of government. Sound familiar? Do you remember the three branches of government?

If you said executive, legislative and judicial you are correct! In each level of government, three branches are in charge of different jobs. They also help keep the balance of power. The executive branch has a leader, a co-leader and department heads. The legislative branch is made up of a group of people who create laws. The judicial branch has judges and the courts of law. They are responsible for deciding how the laws are used and what they mean.

Just like a yummy parfait, each level of government contains all three "layers," or branches, of government. Wouldn't it be nice if the branches were berries, cake and pudding instead of executive, legislative and judicial? Take a look at the parfaits and jukebox-chart to see each branch of government and what positions are in each branch.

The people who live in a city or town use local government services more often than state or federal government services. Local government provides citizens with services like public schools, libraries, fire departments, police departments, parks, garbage removal, water treatment, utilities and building departments.

The Office of the City Clerk is the center of local government. This is where citizens can find information about their city and where city government connects with the public. The city clerk provides the following services:

- preparation of the city commission agenda
- municipal (city) elections
- city code of ordinances and resolutions (laws)
- city commission and advisory board meeting minutes (notes)
- preparation of meeting notices
- property information

The city manager is the chief executive officer and is responsible for the daily operations of the city. The city manager watches over departments like the city's library, parks, utilities, police department and fire department. All departments report to the city manager to keep the city running smoothly. The city manager gets his or her directions from elected officials such as the mayor and commissioners. The city manager doesn't work alone. The assistant city manager helps make the local government run smoothly as well.

What does it take to be a service provider like a city manager? City Manager Lori LaVerriere from Boynton Beach shares how she became interested in local government and serving the community:

"I became involved in local government after I graduated from college. I earned a degree in Marketing and International Business. After doing some temporary work for the city of West Palm Beach, Florida, I applied for and was offered a position with the town of Lantana (also in Florida) as a Special Projects Coordinator. I organized events such as parades, recycling programs and open houses. My first introduction to local government was through the temporary position I had working in the city manager's office in West Palm Beach, Florida. I found that I really enjoyed helping people. Knowing I could make a difference in their quality of life was very satisfying."

The Department of Public Safety includes the Police Department, Fire Rescue Department, Animal Control and Code Compliance (building safety). The citizens count on people in these departments to help keep the community safe. Citizens hope they never have to call on the police or fire rescue, but they are the people who are there in case of an emergency.

What does it take to be a service provider like a firefighter?` Former Boynton Beach, Florida, Fire Chief William L. Bingham shares how he became interested in local government and serving the community:

“As a young firefighter and then a young fire officer, I had a desire to change things. Many people just complained, but I took the initiative to continue my college education and to develop management and leadership skills. I wanted to make a difference and to be a part of the solution. I have always worked in government and find it interesting, challenging and most of all, an opportunity to give something back to my community. Government work is all about providing services to people and not about making a profit. Government and community work is a calling and a career, not just a job.”

Think and Review

1. Do you think citizens should attend meetings at City Hall? Why or why not?

2. Do you think it is important for citizens to elect our local leaders like mayors and commissioners? Why or why not?

3. How do police officers help the local legislative branch?

4. How are the people who serve in the local government similar to you?

Civic Virtues: Being a Good Citizen **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 15)**

The Civil War took place about 150 years ago. It was one of the worst times in American history, and it brought out both the worst and the best in American citizens. Abraham Lincoln was president, and he wanted the United States to be one country where all people were free.

How did the Civil War start? First, Lincoln was elected president in November 1860. Lincoln was against slavery but the southern states didn't want slavery to end. They thought if slavery ended, they would not be able to run their plantations (large farms) and make money. They worried that eventually they would lose their way of life.

In February 1861, some southern states decided to leave the Union (the United States of America) and become a new country. They called themselves the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy. President Lincoln didn't want any states to leave the Union, but he knew slavery was wrong.

More southern states left the Union in April and June of 1861. The disagreements between the North and South caused arguments and fights. The first shots of the war were fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina in April 1861. The war didn't end until April 1865.

The Civil War tore the country apart. People were injured and killed. Homes were burned or damaged by cannons and rifles. Neighbors became enemies. In some families, brothers went to war against each other—one fighting for the North and one fighting for the South. Nobody felt safe. Everyone was hurt in one way or another. Over 600,000 Americans lost their lives during the war.

The Civil War ended in 1865 and the United States worked to become one nation again. Slavery was abolished (ended). Congress passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which made slavery against the law. Unfortunately, Lincoln did not live to see the amendment ratified (approved) in December 1865. He was assassinated (killed) eight months earlier in April 1865.

During the war, people on both sides believed in their cause and did whatever they could to help their soldiers. Nurses like Clara Barton helped the Army doctors care for the wounded and sick soldiers. Many women sewed uniforms and families donated food or money. Friends and relatives wrote letters to cheer up the soldiers. Even people from other countries helped. One of them was a woman from England named Florence Nightingale.

Florence Nightingale



Born in 1820, Florence Nightingale loved to read, write and do math. Her parents hoped she would get married and start a family, but Florence had other dreams. She wanted to help people, so she decided to become a nurse.

Florence was an intelligent woman. She learned how to be an excellent nurse and soon became the head nurse in a London hospital. Florence made sure the hospital was clean, including the beds and medical tools, and that people washed their hands. When the hospitals were clean, the patients became healthier and this saved many lives. Florence also trained other nurses to better serve their patients.

War broke out in 1853 between England and Russia. Many wounded soldiers in Europe needed medical help. Florence and her nurses worked hard to save soldiers' lives. When she returned home to England, she was a hero!

Florence wrote nursing books and opened a school to train "Nightingale" nurses. Those nurses were some of the best in the world. She became even more famous. In 1861, when the United States was fighting the Civil War, the U.S. government asked Florence for help. She did not come to the U.S., but she helped teach people to set up clean hospitals for wounded Civil War soldiers.

Florence was an inspiration to many people. She inspired the founder of the International Red Cross, Henry Dunant. He said that Florence Nightingale made him want to help people in need. Florence died in 1910, but her legacy lives on today. She still inspires people all over the world to help others.

Civic Virtues

Civility (politeness), cooperation and volunteerism are civic virtues. When you help others, you are showing these civic virtues. Many groups work to provide food, water, medicine and education to people in need. Groups can be local, statewide, national or

even international (worldwide). If everyone gives time, resources or a little bit of money to help others, then communities improve. By the way, most people will tell you that doing nice things for others makes you feel good!

Here are some groups that show civility, cooperation and volunteerism. You may have heard of some of them. Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International and The American Red Cross are groups that help people. You and your parents can volunteer with a group, too. Being a good citizen includes taking care of your community—in your hometown or in the world! As you read, draw a star next to the groups you've heard of and a question mark next to the groups you want to learn more about.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a program that builds homes and helps improve communities for low-income families. Habitat for Humanity does not give away homes for free; it helps people in need afford nice homes. It can do this with the help of donations and volunteers. Volunteers are people who do work for no pay.

Many people, clubs and businesses volunteer to help Habitat for Humanity. Families who buy the homes also help build them. Habitat for Humanity is trying to help fix the problems of poverty and homelessness. When they build, they often tear down ruined structures and help clean up areas that people had used for dumping. This makes neighborhoods safer and cleaner. So far, they have built more than 400,000 homes around the world!

Heifer Project International

Heifer Project International (HPI) works with communities around the world to help end hunger and poverty. Their goal is for people to have lives of hope and independence. HPI does this by giving livestock (cows, goats, chickens and more) to families in need. They help the families learn to care for the animals. They also teach the families about eating healthier meals and show them how to make money from the animals. For example, families can sell extra milk or eggs and use the money to buy more food or other needed items. This improves families' lives and gives children time to go to school. Each family who gets an animal agrees to give one of its offspring to another family in need. This is how the gift keeps growing and helping more families around the world!

The American Red Cross

Clara Barton was a nurse who helped soldiers on the battlefields of the Civil War. Several years later, in 1881, she began the American Red Cross. Clara learned about the International Red Cross in Europe, so she decided to create a Red Cross chapter in America. The American Red Cross has been one of the nation's best emergency response groups ever since. It helps the needy, teaches people about health and safety, and shares supplies with people who have been through wars or natural

disasters. The Red Cross also asks people to donate blood. The blood they collect helps save lives around the world.

Think and Review

1. Why do you think it is important for students to learn about good citizenship?

2. The Founding Fathers made sure that the U.S. Constitution could be amended. How did the 13th Amendment change the lives of Americans?

3. Do you think all U.S. citizens should do community service? Why or why not?

4. How are Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton similar? How are they different?
