

Chapter 24

Section 1: State Constitutions

Guiding Question: What are the defining features of state constitutions?

GET STARTED

Lesson Goals:

- ☐ Students will examine the origins, features, and purposes of state constitutions.
- ☐ Students will learn about how constitutions are changed and how these changes may lead to lengthy and outdated state constitutions.

Bellringer In their notebooks, ask students to answer this question: **Why do we have state constitutions as well as a U.S. Constitution?**

Vocabulary Have students look up the words from this section in a dictionary and then write a paragraph using all five words.

TEACH

Tell students that in this section they will learn about state constitutions. Have students read the introductory paragraph and then discuss the connection between state governments and the federal government. Then ask for volunteers to read their responses to the Bellringer aloud.

Ask:

- What four basic principles do the state constitutions and the United States Constitution share? (*the principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, and limited government*)
- What is the purpose of separation of powers? (*The purpose of separation of powers is to keep any one branch from becoming too powerful.*)
- What are the fundamental laws? (*the basic laws of lasting importance that make up a constitution and may not easily be changed*)
- How can citizens suggest constitutional amendments in some states? (*through an initiative*)
- What does ratification mean? (*that the proposed amendment is accepted*)

Learning Styles: Body/Kinesthetic

Provide students with an amendment from their state constitution. Then, organize a state constitutional convention. Have students present arguments for or against the amendment as if it were brand new. Have the class vote on the amendment and keep a tally. Is there more support for or against the amendment? Would the amendment pass today?

Other Strategies

ELL/ESL Strategy

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

- Assign the Section Assessment questions; grade student responses.

Other Resources

Reading Comprehension Worksheet
(All-in-One, p. 16)

Section Quiz B (All-in-One, p. 22)

Chapter Resources

Essential Questions Journal

Chapter 24 Outline (All-in-One, p. 12)

Prereading and Vocabulary Worksheet
(All-in-One, p. 11)

Extend Activity (All-in-One, p. 20)

Audio support is available for this section.

Additional features for Differentiated Instruction can be found throughout the Teacher's Edition.