Declaration of Independence

Articles of Confederation

Preamble

U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

Purposes of Government

Maintain Social Order
Protect Individual Rights
Protect National Security
Make Economic Decisions
Provide Public Services

Principles of Government

Rule of Law
Consent of the Governed
Popular Sovereignty
Separation of Powers
Checks and Balances
Federalism
Majority Rule
Equal Protection
Individual Rights
Judicial Review (Marbury v. Madison)

Types of Government

Democracy:
Representative Democracy
Direct Democracy

Authoritarian:
Monarchy
Dictatorship
Totalitarian
Oligarchy
Types of Economies

Market
Mixed
Command
Traditional

Legislative Branch - U.S. Congress, State and Local Legislatures (Make Laws)

Powers of the States

Powers of the Congress

Requirements of Office

Structure of U.S. Legislative Branch: House and Reps(435-based on population) and Senate(100-2 per state)

The Census, Reapportionment, Redistricting and Gerrymandering
- Population is counted in each state every 10 Years (Census)
- The # of Reps for each state goes up or down for the House of Reps based upon the results of the Senate (Reapportionment)
- Whichever Party is in control of a state's legislative branch gets to draw new district lines for the U.S. House of reps districts at the time of Reapportionment (Redistricting)
- New district lines are always drawn to give an advantage to the party that is in charge of drawing the new district lines (Gerrymandering)

Steps of the Law-Making Process
- Writing and Introduction of Bill (can start in either chamber)
- Sent to Committee and vote in Committee
- Floor Debate and vote
- Sent to other chamber of Congress to repeat process
- Conference Committee of members of both chambers irons out details of two versions passed in each chamber
- Sent to President for signature
- President signs or vetoes, if President vetoes then Congress can override with a 2/3rds vote in both chambers
Executive Branch: President and Bureaucracy (Enforce Laws)

Requirements to be the Presidents

Length of Terms and Term Limits

Powers of the Presidency
  Commander in Chief
  Enforcement of the Law
  Executive Orders
  Appointment of Judges and Officials (Confirmed by Senate at 2/3rds)
  Executive Privilege (US. v. Nixon)
  Diplomacy
  Veto Power

Electing the President (Electoral College)

Impeachment Process

Regulatory Agencies - Enforce Laws made by Congress
  Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforce environmental laws
  Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Regulate telecommunications
  Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Enforce airline safety laws
  Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Enforce fair business laws
  Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Enforce food and medicine safety laws
  Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Regulate wall street investments

Judicial Branch: Court System and Supreme Court (Interpret Laws)