TEACHER KEY · LESSON WORKSHEET · GRADE 5 · 5.H.14-5.H.15 · 5.C.1 · 5.C.3 · 5.C.5

Founding Documents & Our Government

Fill in each part when its number appears on the slide.

PART 1 · TARGET

I can explain how the Constitution divides power among three branches and which rights the Bill of Rights protects.

PART 2 · WARM-UP

1. Why do classrooms need rules? What would happen with no rules?
   Key: Rules keep order and fairness; without them it would be chaotic or unfair.
2. Who should decide the rules: one person or a group? Why?
   Key: Answers vary; look for a reason about fairness or power.
3. Name one freedom you think every American should have.
   Key: Examples: speech, religion, press, assembly, fair trial.

PART 3 · PREDICTION

Should one student make all the class rules, enforce them, AND judge who broke them?

Circle one: [ ] Yes, it is faster [ ] No, it is too much power [ ] Not sure

PART 4 · VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Constitution	The supreme law of the United States, written in 1787.
Legislative branch	Congress (Senate and House). Makes laws.
Executive branch	The President. Carries out and enforces laws.
Judicial branch	The Supreme Court and federal courts. Interpret laws.

PART 5 · WHY A CONSTITUTION?

The ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION were too weak, so leaders wrote the CONSTITUTION in 1787.

Check: What was one problem with the Articles of Confederation?

Circle one: (A) The government could not collect taxes (B) The president had too much power (C) There were too many courts (D) It gave the king power

Key: (A) The government could not collect taxes. The national government was too weak.

PART 6 · WE THE PEOPLE

The Preamble starts with "WE THE PEOPLE," meaning power comes from the PEOPLE.

Check: What does "We the People" show?

Circle one: (A) Only judges have power (B) States have no power (C) The government's power comes from citizens (D) The king rules

Key: (C) The government's power comes from citizens. Popular sovereignty.

PART 7 · THREE BRANCHES

Congress MAKES laws, the President CARRIES OUT laws, and the courts INTERPRET laws.

Check: Which branch decides whether a law follows the Constitution?

Circle one: (A) Legislative (B) Executive (C) The states (D) Judicial

Key: (D) Judicial. Courts interpret laws.

PART 8 · CHECKS, BALANCES, AND RIGHTS

The President can VETO a bill. Congress can override it with a 2/3 vote. The BILL OF RIGHTS protects our freedoms.

Check: Why did the Founders create checks and balances?

Circle one: (A) So no branch becomes too powerful (B) To make laws faster (C) To give the President all power (D) To end elections

Key: (A) So no branch becomes too powerful. Checks prevent abuse of power.

PART 9 · WORKED EXAMPLE

1. Three boxes: Legislative (Congress) | Executive (President) | Judicial (courts).
2. Step 1: Congress passes a bill.
3. Step 2: The President vetoes it (a check on Congress).
4. Step 3: Two-thirds of Congress votes to override (a check on the President).
5. Result: the bill becomes law anyway. No branch has all the power.

PART 10 · WE DO

The Supreme Court rules that a new law breaks the First Amendment. Which check is this, and which branch is being checked?

Answer: Judicial checks legislative

PART 11 · YOU DO

The President nominates a judge, but the Senate votes no. This shows:

Circle one: (A) Popular sovereignty only (B) The Articles of Confederation (C) A veto (D) Checks and balances

Key: (D) Checks and balances. The Senate (legislative) checked the President (executive).

PART 12 · WORK TIME: BRANCHES OF POWER QUEST

Write each code piece as you earn it: Level 1: C Level 2: H Level 3: E Level 4: C Level 5: K

Final code: CHECK

PART 13 · WRAP-UP

Was your prediction in Part 3 right? One thing I learned today:

Key: Examples: speech, religion, press, assembly, fair trial.