

[1.1] Principles of Government



Open Ended Question

Government and You Consider what you already know about the government of the United States. What have you done recently that involved the government? How has the government affected you or someone you know? Make a list of at least four useful things the government does for its citizens. Explain why you think each one is useful.

Essential Question:

What should governments do?

Enduring Understandings

- Government is the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies, and is made up of those who exercise its powers, and have power and authority over the people.
- Governments are classified by who can participate, the distribution of power, and the relationship between lawmakers and those who execute the laws.
- The origins of modern democratic government lie in the ideas of ancient Greece, Rome, and the Enlightenment.
- A democracy is based upon recognizing the worth and dignity of all, equality, majority rule balanced with minority rights, compromise, and individual freedom.

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Learning Objectives

- Define government and the basic powers every government holds.
- Describe the four defining characteristics of a state.
- Identify the four theories that attempt to explain the origin of the state.
- Understand the purpose of government in the United States and other countries.

Poll

Which of the 3 Branches is the strongest in the American System of Government?

- Executive
- Legislative
- Judicial
- They are all equal

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Key Terms

- Government: The governing body of a nation, state, or community
- public policies: Government policies that essentially affect the entire population.
- legislative power: Congress; they are the only branch that can make laws or change existing laws
- executive power: President, (V.P., Cabinet, executive departments, independent agencies, commissions, and committees.) Has the power to carry out and enforce laws. The president also acts as the commander and chief of the armed forces (declare war) President also appoints people to cabinets, executive departments, etc. They are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the federal laws. The president also has the power to sign a law into affect or veto it. (more to come, this is just an intro)
- judicial power: The Court System; appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. It is the system of courts that interprets and applies the law in the name of the state. Also provides a mechanism for the resolution of disputes.
- Dictatorship: a type of government where one ruler has absolute power
- Democracy: a system of government by the whole population of all the eligible members of the state, typically through elected representatives
- Sovereign: to posses the supreme or ultimate power, a supreme ruler (monarch)

Open Ended Question

Who makes up the Executive Branch? What are the responsibilities of the Executive Branch?

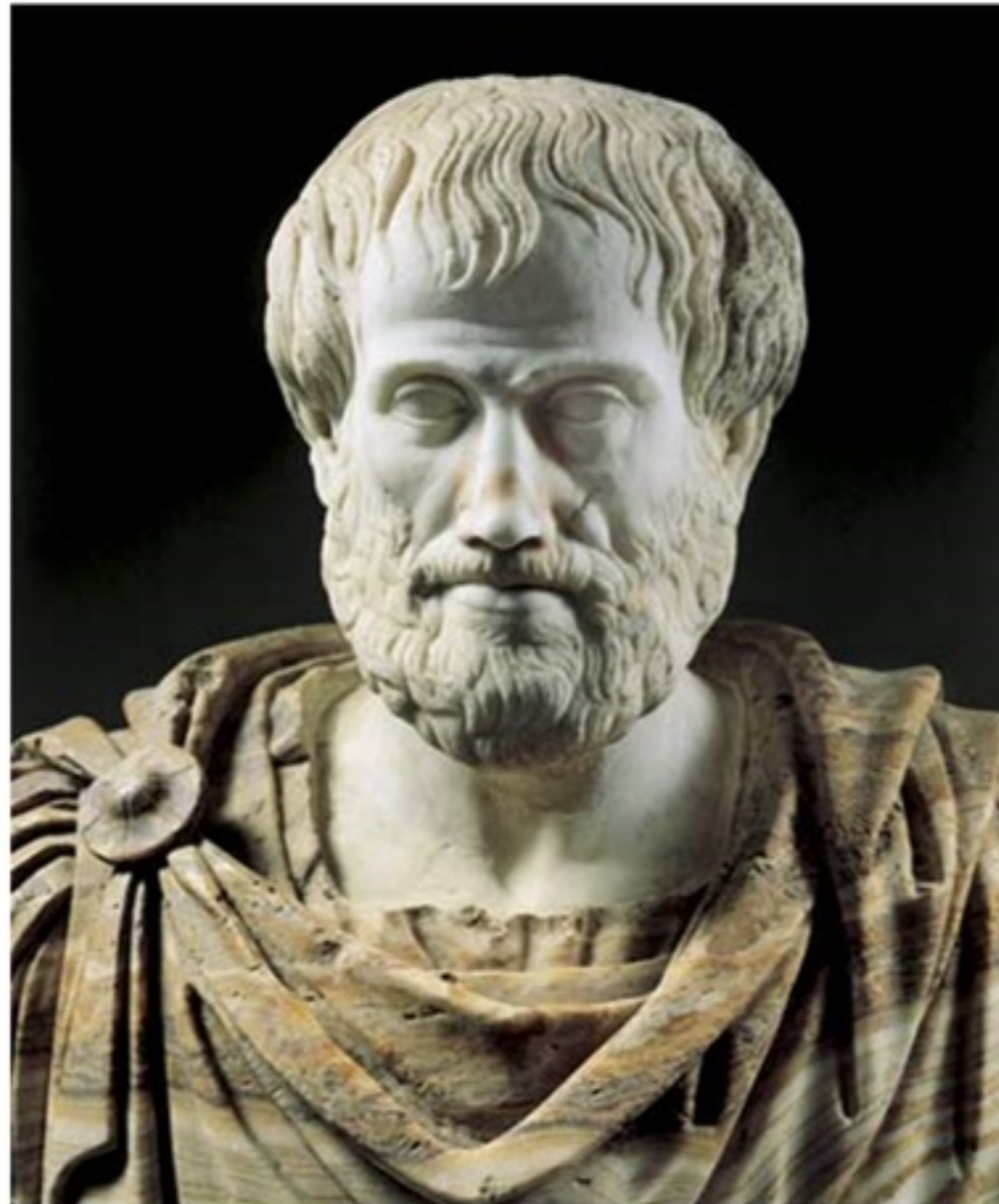
Open Ended Question

Who makes up the Judicial Branch? What are the responsibilities of the Judicial Branch?

Open Ended Question

Who makes up the Legislative Branch? What are the responsibilities of the Legislative Branch?

- Aristotle: Greek philosopher who was a student of Plato in Athens, who developed one of the early models of the concept of a republic (a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has elected or nominated president rather than a monarch) Aristotle was one of the first philosophers to define what he thought a political should be; a craftsman. A society should have a constitution that protects it citizens and it is the job of the politician to maintain and modify the constitution so that it is in the best interest of the people



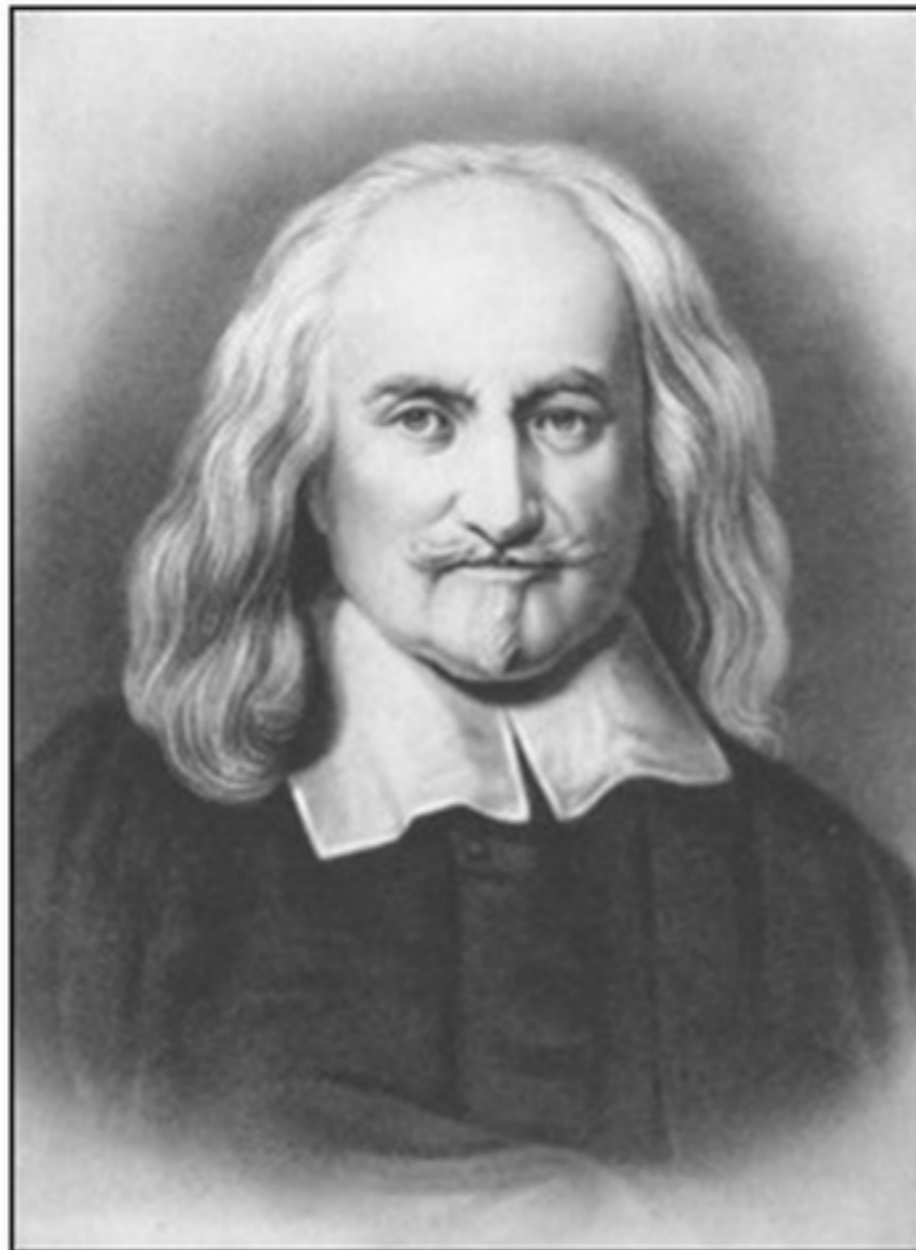
Open Ended Question

What is the difference between politics and government?

Gov vs Politics

Government is the institution, Politics is the process by which the government makes decisions.

- Thomas Hobbes: An English philosopher, known for giving western government its foundation. His main concern is the problem of social and political order: how human beings can live together in peace and avoid the danger and fear of civil conflict. He poses stark alternatives: we should give our obedience to an unaccountable sovereign (a person or group empowered to decide every social and political issue). Otherwise what awaits us is a "state of nature" that closely resembles civil war – a situation of universal insecurity, where all have reason to fear violent death and where rewarding human cooperation is all but impossible.



- John Locke: British philosopher who made foundational contributions to modern theories of limited, liberal government. In his most important work, the *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Locke set out to offer an analysis of the human mind and its acquisition of knowledge. He offered an empiricist theory according to which we acquire ideas through our experience of the world. The mind is then able to examine, compare, and combine these ideas in numerous different ways. Knowledge consists of a special kind of relationship between different ideas.
- In his *Second Treatise of Government*, Locke identified the basis of a legitimate government. According to Locke, a ruler gains authority through the consent of the governed. The duty of that government is to protect the natural rights of the people, which Locke believed to include life, liberty, and property.





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Government—We the People

This is a course about government—and, more particularly, about government in the United States. The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution begins with the phrase, 'We the People of the United States.' As a citizen, you are an important member of the 'We.' For that reason alone, you should know as much as you possibly can about government. Government affects you in an uncountable number of very important ways. It does so today, it did so yesterday, and it will do so every day for the rest of your life.

Government–We the People

- The Need for Government
- Basic Powers of Government
- Government as Human Invention

Government—We the People

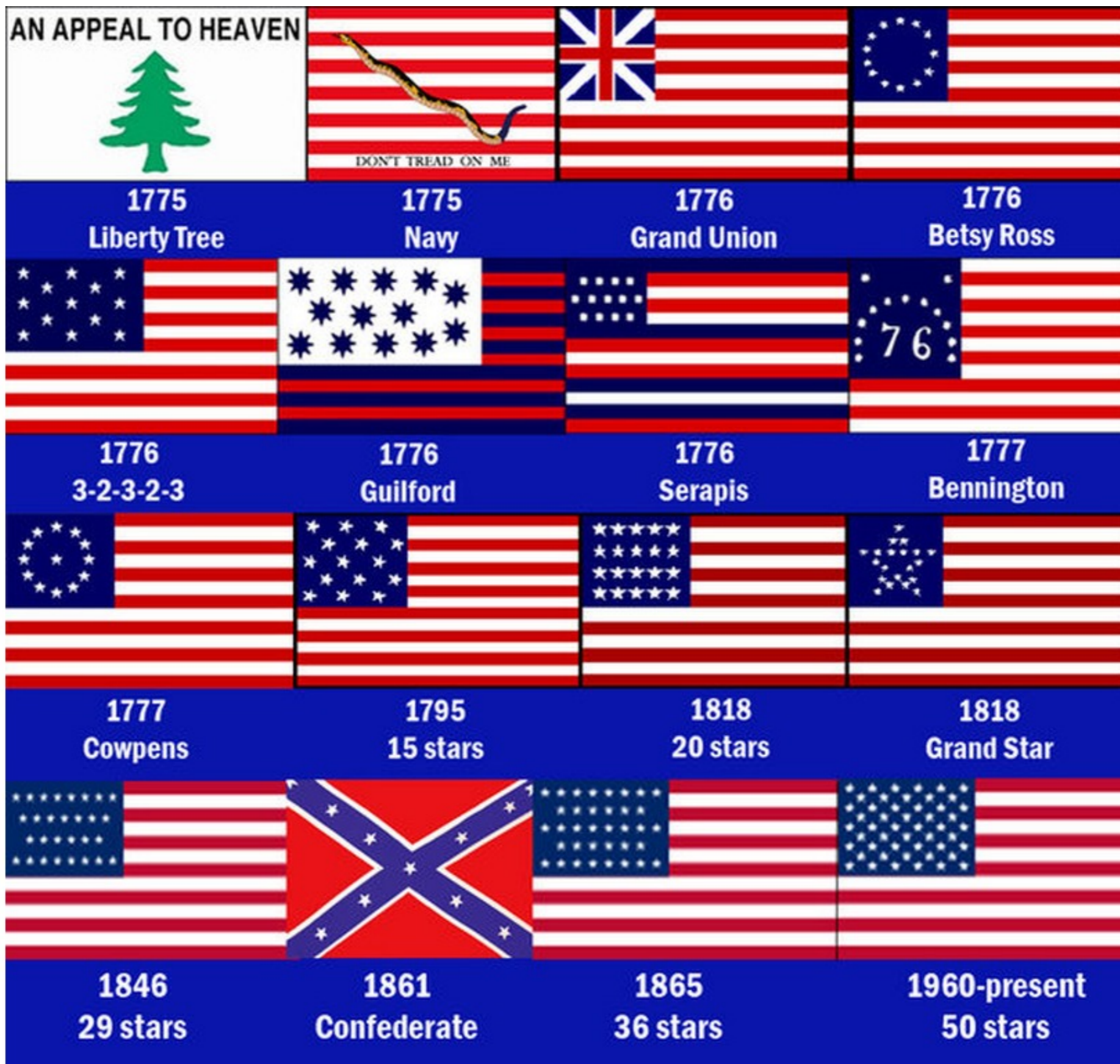


Flags represent a country's government, resources, people, and pride; they have a unifying effect and are a symbol of the collective achievements of a country.

The symbolism of Stars, Stripes, and Colors...

- Thirteen stripes represent the original thirteen colonies that declared independence from England.
- Fifty stars symbolize the current 50 United States.
- White signifies purity and innocence.
- Red signifies valor and bravery.
- Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Slideshow



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Slideshow

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The State

The state has developed from major political ideas in history. The state can be defined as a body of people, living in a defined territory, organized politically (that is, with a government), and with the power to make and enforce law without the consent of any higher authority.

The State

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF A STATE

WHAT MAKES A STATE?



POPULATION

Large or small, every state must be inhabited—that is, have a population.



TERRITORY

Every state must have land, with known and recognized borders.



SOVEREIGNTY

The state has absolute power within its territory. It can decide its own foreign and domestic policies.



GOVERNMENT

Government is the mechanism through which a state makes and enforces its policies.

Every state in the world has four characteristics. Analyze Charts How does the sovereignty of a State in the U.S. compare to the national sovereignty of the U.S. as a whole?

The State



According to the U.S. Census Bureau projections, by 2044, no group will constitute a majority. This growing diversity is most apparent in large cities, where population is concentrated.

How States Arose

For centuries, historians, philosophers, and others have pondered the question of the origin of the state. What major political ideas in history resulted in the emergence of states?

How States Arose

- The Force Theory
- The Evolutionary Theory
- The Divine Right of Kings Theory
- The Social Contract Theory
- People Agree to Form a State

How States Arose

HISTORICAL THEORIES OF THE ORIGINS OF THE STATE

FORCE THEORY

An individual or group claimed control over a **territory** and forced the population to submit. In this way, the state became sovereign, and those in control formed a government.



DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS THEORY

God created the state, making it sovereign. The government is made up of those chosen by God to rule a certain territory. The population must obey their ruler.



EVOLUTIONARY THEORY

A population formed out of primitive families. The heads of these families became the government. When these families settled in one territory and claimed it as their own, they became a sovereign state.



SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

A population in a given territory gave up as much power to a government as needed to promote the well-being of all. In doing so, they created a sovereign state.



There are four theories as to how the state came to be. Analyze Charts Which of the theories best describes the origins of the United States? Why?

How States Arose



Louis XIV was king of France during the late 1600s to early 1700s. He believed he had been given the divine right to rule. He had himself painted at Versailles being crowned by Victory.

What Government Does

What does government do? You can find a very meaningful answer to that question in the Constitution of the United States. The American system of government was created to serve the purposes set out there.

What Government Does

- Form a More Perfect Union
- Establish Justice
- Insure Domestic Tranquility
- Provide for the Common Defense
- Promote the General Welfare
- Secure the Blessings of Liberty
- Patriotism

What Government Does



The Preamble to the Constitution spells out the purpose of the U.S. Constitution and identifies the values and principles of the government.

Quiz

Which of the following is the best example of judicial powers.

- Passing laws allowing businesses to merge.
- Specifying how much senators should be paid.
- Interpreting laws that are controversial among citizens.
- Writing regulations about manufacturing safe medicines.

Which of the following sets includes the common characteristics of every State?

- democracy, dictatorship, population, territory
- territory, population, government, sovereignty
- sovereignty, absolute power, government, democracy
- boundaries, government, institutions, public policies

Which major historical political theory of the origin of the state is most compatible with the Declaration of Independence?

- force theory
- evolutionary theory
- social contract theory
- divine right of kings theory

Which of the following makes up executive branch?

- Senate
- House of Representatives
- Supreme Court
- The President

Which of the following is the best example of legislative powers?

- Power to declare war
- Interpret laws
- Create or change laws
- resolves disputes