

SS.7.C.3.3

Illustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.

Article I outlines the powers of the Congress (Legislative Branch)

Article I is the longest article of the Constitution

Bicameral: Senate & House of Representatives

minimum age: 25 for House, 30 for Senate

Main Job: to make laws

limited to 18 "Enumerated" or "Expressed" powers

Leadership in Congress:

House & Senate elect their own leaders who are always a member of the majority party

majority party can change with any election

(elections are in even numbered years)

House: Speaker of the House

elected by the 435 Representatives

Senate: President Pro-Tempore

elected by the 100 Senators

Vice President of the United States is also President of the Senate

runs the meetings... but can vote only to break a tie

when VP is not there, the President Pro-Tem runs the meetings

Article II explains the Executive Branch

Led by the president

minimum age: 35

Main Job: to carry out (execute) the laws

Some powers of the President:

can make treaties with other countries

in charge of foreign relations

appoint judges

commander in chief of the armed forces

vice president is also the president of the Senate

runs the meetings; can vote in the Senate only to break a tie

Article III outlines powers of the judicial branch

Main Job: to interpret the laws

Supreme Court is established in the Constitution

It is the highest court

Congress has the power to set up other (lower) courts

Congress determines how many justices (judges) are on the Supreme Court

All Federal judges (Supreme Court and lower courts) are:

Appointed by the President

Confirmed or rejected by the Senate

Serve for life

Can't get fired by President, but can be impeached by Congress