

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY PACKET

The State We're In: Washington is an online and printed educational publication developed by the League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund. Part of a larger Civic Education Project, this instructional resource establishes the link between public participation and effective government. Colorful graphs, historical photos and thought-provoking illustrations help to describe the basics of government, and the connection between a governing authority and culture and economy.

Complete all 4 Tasks

TASK 1

Read Chapter 5 of The State We're in... Washington. It can be found on the link below. Answer all the questions below. You may use the chapter, or any online source to help you complete the task. The Washington State Constitution will also be a good source.

Link http://moodle.esd113.org/pluginfile.php/1516/mod_resource/content/3/p57-81.ch5.pdf

GETTING THE FACTS

1. What are the four basic ideas in our constitution?
2. What are the two halves of the State Legislature?
3. List the three branches of government.
4. When does the State Legislature meet? How long is the session?
5. Name three committees in the legislature.
6. What is a public hearing?
7. What do both the House and Senate have to do before a Bill becomes a law?
8. Who must sign the final Bill before it becomes law?
9. What is the legislature's biggest job?
10. How is the operating budget used?
11. Where does the money for the state budget come from?
12. What is the job of the Senate Majority Leader?
13. What is a party caucus?
14. Using the circle graphs in your text, answer these questions: a) What are the largest sources of state money? b) What are the largest spending programs?
15. Why do we have a part time legislature?
16. What are the jobs of the governor?
17. What is the role of the judiciary?

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS

1. List the four basic ideas in our constitutions and briefly describe what they mean.
2. Using the diagram in your text, briefly describe how a bill becomes a law.
3. Why was the process of lawmaking made to be so complicated?
4. Name the four budgets. How is each one used?
5. What are the sources of money for the budget?
6. What power does a committee chair have?
7. Why is the senate majority leader the most powerful person in the senate?
8. Political parties have an important role in the legislature. Briefly summarize that role.
9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a part time legislature?

APPLYING THE FACTS - ANSWER 5 OF THE 10. YOUR CHOICE ON WHICH ONES TO DO.

1. Explain how each of the basic ideas in our constitution are implemented in the way we are governed.
2. How do the three branches of state government work with each other?
3. What is the make-up and structure of the state legislature?
4. Is the committee system of holding hearings on bills a good way to pass new legislation? Why or why not?
5. Most states have an income tax in order to have enough money to fund the budget. Washington does not. Review the sources of money we currently have. Would an income tax be a better way of financing state programs? *(Are the taxes the state has presently, doing a good job of raising in enough money for the state – examples sales tax, gas tax, and property tax. Compare that to what would be raised if the state had an direct income tax on citizens earnings)*
6. Political parties have an important role in our state legislative branch. Is this an efficient way to organize the lawmaking system? Why or why not? Is it harmful in any way?
7. Why is there a debate about water usage? How can a settlement be reached?
8. Why is it important to elect a competent person to be governor?
9. How does the court system help to maintain an orderly democratic system?
10. Can there be a democracy without equal justice under the law?

TASK 2

You will now determine how the Washington State Constitution impacts your life. You will need a copy of the Constitution. A PDF of the document can be found online.

Explain how and why each of the following aspect of the Washington State Constitution impact your life today.

Article 1

Section 1 – Political Power

Section 2 – Supreme Law of Land

Section 3 – Personal Rights

Section 4 – Right of Petition and assemblage

Section 5 – Freedom of Speech

Section 7 – Invasion of Private affairs or home prohibited

Section 11 – Religious Freedom

Section 13 – Habeas corpus

Section 14 – Excessive bail, fines and punishments.

Section 21 – Trial by jury

Section 24 – Right to bear arms

Section 35 – Victim of crimes – rights

TASK 3

Complete the (Political Leaders Worksheet). These will be the people that represent you at each level of government.

TASK 4

Write a letter to the following of your elected officials. Provide a copy of the letter you write and any response from the elected officials. In this letter you must address an issue or problem facing the state today. You must take a side on the issue, make an argument and use evidence to back up your argument.

1. Your Governor
2. Your State Senator
3. One of your State Representatives.

Your Political Leader Worksheet

Your Political Address

- Your Name _____

- City or Town _____
- County _____
- Precinct _____
- County Council District _____
- State Legislative District _____
- Federal Congressional District _____

Federal Government

- President _____
- Vice President _____
- U.S. Senator (2) _____
- _____
- U.S. Representative _____

State Government

- Governor _____
- Lt Governor _____
- State Senator _____
- State Representative (2) _____
- _____

Local Government

- City or Town Chief Elected Officer _____
- Country Elected Officers (3) _____
- _____
- _____
- County Prosecuting Attorney _____
- Chief Law Enforcement Officer _____

Where and when does your city council meet? _____

Where and when does your county council meet? _____

Where and when does your school board meet? _____

Learning Standards

- EALR 1: CIVICS - The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.
- **Common Core 12th Grade Social Studies**
 - **Information/Reading**
 - CC1 - Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources
 - CC2 - Determine the central ideas or information, provide an accurate summary.
 - CC3 - Evaluate various explanations for actions or events
 - CC6 - Evaluate differing points of view on the same event or issue by assessing the claims, reasoning, and evidence.

- CC7 - Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- CC8 - Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.
- CC9 - Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources
- **Production/Writing**
 - CC1 - Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content
 - CC2 - Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of event
 - CC4 - Produce clear and coherent writing
 - CC5 - Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting
 - CC7 - Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation
 - CC8 - Gather relevant information
 - CC9 - Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
 - CC10 - Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.