

FP.C&G.2.5

Compare United States system of government within the framework of the federal and state structures as well as in how they relate with governmental systems of other nations (e.g. republicanism, federalism).

Students will understand:

1. The structure of government often reflects the priorities and goals of a nation, state, or ruling power. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances)
2. Political change at the state level may cause conflict at the national level and vice versa. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, federalism)
3. In democratic forms of government, ultimate power often lies with the people. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, frequent and free elections in a representative government, rule of law, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights, individual responsibility)
4. Democratic practice may facilitate the maintenance and structure of the institutions of a nation. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, frequent and free elections in a representative government, rule of law, equal justice under the law, private property rights, federalism, due process, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights)

Students will know:

1. Differences between the federal and state structure of governments. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, federalism)
2. Differences and similarities between the United States system and structure of government and the government systems and structures of other nations. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, federalism)
 - a. For example: One significant difference between the United States and some other major democracies is the selection and role of the head of government. In parliamentary systems, the head of government is a prime minister selected from the parliament, and is typically the leader of the majority political party or coalition. The prime minister appoints a cabinet of ministers often consisting of other members of parliament. A separate head of state may be a monarch or an elected President (or comparable official).
3. Ways in which foreign constitutions, both historical and extant, compare to the United States Constitution. (US Constitution, rule of law).

Note: *Selection of countries to compare to the United States should be up to the teacher.*