

Founding a Government

Activity Suggestion Sheets

The Branches of Government

- Draw a diagram of the three branches of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) illustrating how they work together. How do the branches balance one another?
- Find a group and play “Tri-Corners!”
 - Print and cut out **these cards**, and label three corners of the room as the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government.
 - Have one person read one card out loud. Everyone else should go to the corner that aligns with the job written on the card. A few people should discuss why they think the job belongs to the branch they chose, and then reveal the answer.
 - Repeat with the rest of the cards!



Mr. President

- Pretend that you are president for the day. Write a persuasive paragraph (or draw out) your ideas on how you would make your classroom, school, or town a better place.
- Watch a video from Martha Washington as First Lady and **think about the stories** she is telling. Then, write her a short letter with your thoughts, observations, and questions.
- Create a list of predictions for why George Washington didn't want to be king. Next, while **watching this video**, listen for and write down at least 3 actual reasons why not. Were any of your predictions correct?

Decision Making

Play a game of “Would You Rather?” with friends with the following questions:

- Would you rather choose a cabinet(which is a team of advisors) or make all the decisions yourself?
- Would you rather fight in a war with another country or try to stay neutral?
- Would you rather create new taxes or find another way to raise money for the government?

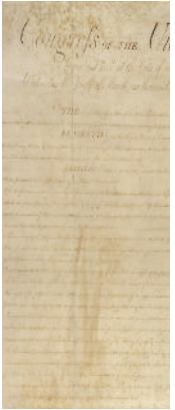
Play BeWashington and make decisions for yourself!



THE
CONSTITUTION



WASHINGTON
AS PRESIDENT



THE BILL OF
RIGHTS

The Constitution

- Look at the **Constitution** and **Bill of Rights** and think out loud (or write down) your answers to the following questions: What do you see? What do you think? What do you wonder?
- Look at the first paragraph, called the “preamble,” of the **Constitution**. This is the main idea. Circle any words you know, and draw a picture or symbol above that word. Ask an adult to explain what the preamble means
- Watch **A More Perfect Union** (from minute 6:43-21:00). Then, write five texts to a friend as if you were a mouse in the corner at the Constitutional convention. Describe the conversations you heard or the things you saw.