



## **Government Grades 3-5**

*This lesson is designed to be completed independently and is recommended for children in grades 3-5.*

In this Lesson Plan, students will read books, make art, and watch videos to learn about why the United States Constitution was made, voting, the three branches of our government and more.

This lesson contains activities that have been connected to Missouri Learning Standards using the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines. Although these lessons have been connected to a state learning standard, they are not intended to replace the educational curriculum provided through public, private, or at-home learning.

To access videos and databases, click on the hyperlinked text in the lesson plan. An active Christian County Library card is necessary to access select activities. For help, email [youthservices@christiancountylibrary.org](mailto:youthservices@christiancountylibrary.org) or call your local community branch.

## 1. Introduction to the Lesson

- a. Listen to a library staff member introduce the **lesson**.
- b. Print out the documents and handouts to have ready for the lesson and gather any needed supplies.
- c. Use Handout A to write down what you already know about our government and what you would like to learn.
- d. OPTIONAL: Take a look at this [glossary](#) of government terms.
  - i. DESE Standard: Writing 3.A.a

## 2. The United States Constitution

- a. Watch [Unite or Die: How 13 States Became a Nation](#) by Jacqueline Jules on Tumblebooks.
  - i. Go to



<https://christiancountylibrary.org/research> . Scroll down to Tumblebooks. Once you are on tumblebooks click “tumblesearch” in the top right hand corner. Type the word *constitution* in the “search by subject” box. Click on “Play Video” to have the story read to you.

- b. Make a [constitution mini book](#). Decorate it, read it, and answer the questions at the end of the linked document.
  1. DESE Standard: Social Studies 1. B

## 3. The Three Branches of Government

- a. Watch [this video](#) about the three branches of government. Then used what you learned to complete Handout B.
  1. DESE Standard: Social Studies 2.D

## 4. The Presidents

- a. Discuss: Has anyone heard the word “president” before? Do you know who the current U.S. president is? What do you think a president does? What are some qualities a president should have? Read [this article](#) about what a president’s job is.
- b. Listen to [this song](#) and try to learn the order and names of the first 45 presidents.

- c. Listen to someone from another library read [President Taft is Stuck in the Bath](#) by Mac Barnett
- d. Optional: [Pick a picture](#) of a U.S. president to color.
- e. Optional: [Learn how to become the U.S. President.](#)
- f. Optional: Take a [quiz](#) to see which U.S. President matches your personality.
  - 1. DESE Standard: Reading 1.A, Social Studies 1.E

## 5. Voting in the United States

- a. Listen to a librarian read [Grace for President](#) by Kelly DiPucchio
- b. Check out Hoopla! Download the Hoopla app or go to <https://www.hoopladigital.com>. Follow the instructions to log into your Hoopla account. Once you have logged in, type the word “voting” in the search bar. Borrow [Count Me In! The US Voting System](#).
- c. Discuss what it means to be an active citizen. What are some things that an active citizen does?
- d. Optional: Listen to [Equality’s Call](#) by Deborah Diesen read by a librarian.
- e. Optional: Make a ballot box and have family members or friends vote on something. See [Handout C](#) for fun ideas.
  - 1. DESE Standard: Speaking/Listening 1.A, Social Studies 1.D

## 6. Independence Day

- a. July 4th is the day that we celebrate America’s birthday. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about our country’s Independence Day.
- b. Here is [an article](#) about our country’s Independence Day. How much of this did you already know? Did you learn anything new?
- c. Follow [these instructions](#) to make Fireworks in a jar.
  - i. Use the [scientific method](#) and complete this [experiment worksheet](#) while you do this project.
  - ii. What does it look like? What do you think will happen to the color? What shapes does the food coloring make in the water?
    - 1. Science K.PS1.A.1

## 7. National Symbols

- a. Learn about our national symbols by watching [this video](#).
  - i. Make a piece of art based on a national symbol. Why did you choose this symbol?
    1. DESE Standard: Social Studies 1.F



## 8. How Laws are made

- a. Congress creates and passes bills. Someday, these bills might become a law. The song "[I'm Just a Bill](#)" by Schoolhouse Rock came out in 1976 and can still show you the basics of how a bill becomes a law. Watch this video and ask older members of your family if they have ever seen this video before.
- b. OPTIONAL: Check out [this infographic](#) to see the process of how a law is made.
- c. After you've watched the video complete [this worksheet](#).
  1. DESE Standard:

## 9. Food Activity

- a. Peanut butter was invented right here in the USA. Make a Fluffernutter Sandwich! (If you can't have peanut butter, use your favorite peanut butter substitute.)
  - i. Follow the instructions on Handout D to make your Sandwich.
  - ii. [Click Here](#) to read about the history of the fluffernutter.
  - iii. OPTIONAL: Read about the [history of peanuts in the USA](#).
- b. Check out food culture in the United States on A to Z World Food Database
  - i. Go to <https://christiancountylibrary.org/research> and scroll down to A to Z World Food. Enter in your library card number and use the map or country list to find the United States. Explore foods that are popular in the United States and festivals that are celebrated.

- ii. Discussion: Did you see any of your favorite foods while exploring? Are there any new foods that you would like to try to make?

1. Speaking/Listening 1.A.c

➤ **Explore more! Here are some optional links for more learning and fun!**

- <https://www.education.com/download/worksheet/28769/sudoku-july-4-kindergarten.pdf>
- <https://jinxykids.com/printable-4th-july-word-search-puzzle/>
- <https://img.yumpu.com/11311726/1/500x640/3-branches-of-government-word-search.jpg>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/presidential-fun-facts/>

➤ **Learning Standard**

c. The learning standards attached to each activity can be found at the following links:

- i. [Missouri Learning Standards/Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#)





## HANDOUT B

PREK - 2ND Cut out the leaves below and glue them onto the Branches of Government tree. Talk with your child about what you learned in the video and what each branch does.

3RD - 5TH Cut out the leaves below. Glue the leaves onto the Branches of Government tree. Make sure the matching leaves are near each other. Next to the leaves write something that the branch does.



# THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



HANDOUT C



# Make a Fluffernutter Sandwich

## Ingredients

2 Slices of Bread

1 TBSP Peanut Butter

*(You can use a substitute if you have an allergy.)*

1 TBSP Marshmallow Fluff

OPTIONAL: Something to drink

## Tools

Butterknife or something for spreading

Plate



## Instructions

Step 1: Get out all of your ingredients and tools.

Step 2: Put 2 Slices of bread side by side on your plate.

Step 3: Spread peanut butter (or substitute) on one side of one of the slices of bread. You might want more or less peanut butter than what is listed above.

Step 4: Spread marshmallow fluff on the other piece of bread. You might want more or less marshmallow fluff than what is listed above.

Step 5: Put your pieces of bread together so that the peanut butter and marshmallow fluff are on the inside.

Step 6: Your sandwich is finished. Grab your drink and eat your sandwich while you read about the history of peanut butter.