

Guided Reading Activity

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The Constitution

Lesson 4 *State Constitutions and Local Charters*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

I. The Structures of State Governments

- A. Like the national government, every state constitution provides for _____ among three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- B. It is the job of state _____ to pass laws to meet the needs of the state, and in the areas of _____ and safety they have more power than the U.S. Congress.
- C. The _____ heads the state's executive branch, but the level of control that office holds over the executive branch varies widely from state to state.
- D. State courts, established by the state constitution, uphold and interpret state laws, but the state constitution cannot contain provisions that clash with the _____.

II. Rights and Amendments in State Constitutions

- A. Many states allow people to propose amendments directly through _____ initiatives.
- B. All states allow their state legislature to propose constitutional _____.
- C. Most states provide the option of state-wide constitutional _____ in which citizen representatives gather to consider changing or replacing a constitution.
- D. Florida and New Mexico offer the option of a constitutional _____, or group of experts who are appointed to study the state constitution and recommend changes.
- E. Under the power of _____, if a federal court decides that a state constitutional amendment conflicts with the U.S. Constitution, that amendment must be removed from the state's constitution.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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III. Local Governments and Charters

- A. State constitutions establish different types of _____ government, usually based on a community's size and population, and define the _____, _____, and duties of local governments.
- B. A _____, issued by the state government, grants legal status to a community and specifies the type of government and the powers and responsibilities of that government.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Describe the role state constitutions play in structuring state and local government and protecting individual rights.
