

*Special Ed*

# BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

ELEMENTARY



**ALSO INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES**

*Special Needs for Special Kids*



*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, has a very short attention span, and struggles to sit still. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

# Branches of Government Unit (Elementary)

By  
Christa Joy  
Special Needs for Special Kids



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
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*Also included with this unit is a power point show that is narrated and has automatic advancement of slides. Let me know in the feedback if this was helpful 😊*

*Also included with this unit are 2 weeks worth of detailed lesson plans in a separate file. Let me know in the feedback if this was helpful 😊*

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This unit contains over 100 pages of material plus 16 google slides. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

# Branches of Government Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

1. *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. *Make you own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.
3. *Options for Use:* Turn any activity into a reusable file folder activity by laminating and adding Velcro.
  - a. For more info, watch this video here:  
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Making-File-Folder-Activities-3474240>

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• 1 Key facts collage</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• 1 Key facts collage</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• 1 Key facts collage</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Sorting activity</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Coloring book</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social story</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social story</li><li>• Color and assemble booklet</li></ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social story</li><li>• Personalize power card</li></ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review</li></ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment</li></ul>

*The lesson plans contain:*

*A quick look at what you will do each day*

### Day 3

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary board matching (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hold a symbol from the board you cut out so the students can see it</li><li>• Describe it as best you can.</li><li>• Have students place their counter or other marker on the symbol that matches the one you are holding up.</li><li>• You can add some variety and check for generalization by using the BW cards while the students have the colored version</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary board</li><li>• 1 vocabulary board that has been cut up for teacher use</li><li>• Counters or some way for students to mark their board</li></ul>
Review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the completed collage from yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher copy of completed collage from yesterday</li></ul>
Key facts Collage #3 (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choose one of the collages to focus on</li><li>• Students cut out symbols and place in the collage</li><li>• Make connections to the book as necessary</li><li>• Color in finished product</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collage worksheet</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li><li>• crayons</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished collage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed collage</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you think it is hard to work in government?</li><li>• Do you think it would be fun?</li><li>• Would you want to work in government?</li></ul>	

The lesson plans contain:

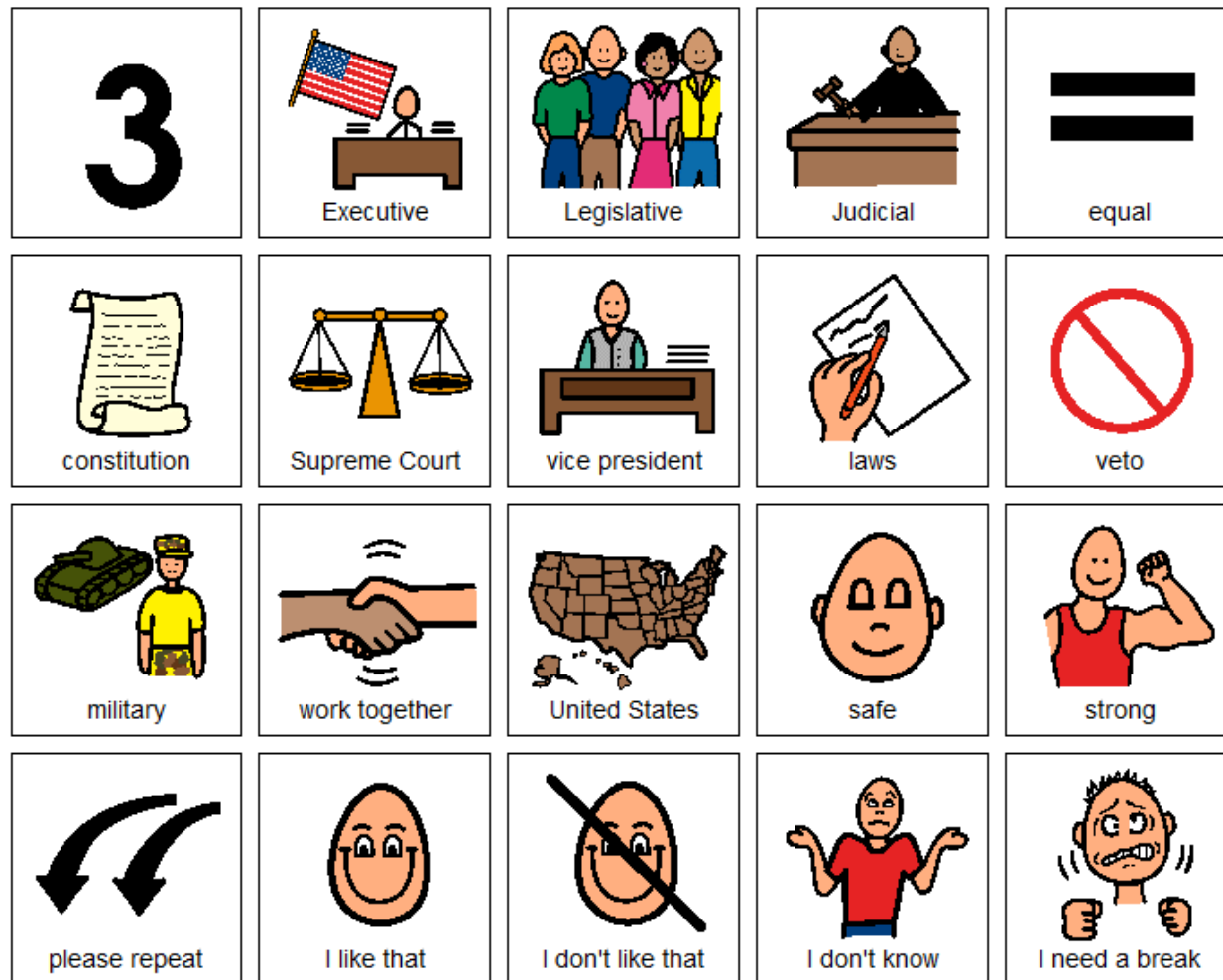
Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

(There are NO vocabulary cards in this unit.)



A long time ago, people realized that it was important for each branch to have the same amount of power.



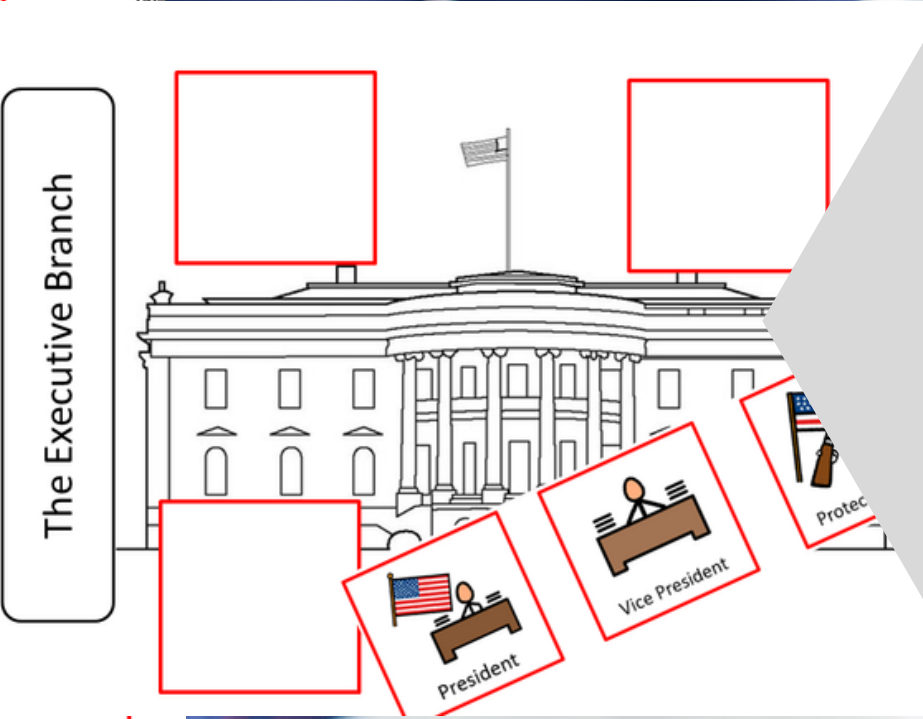
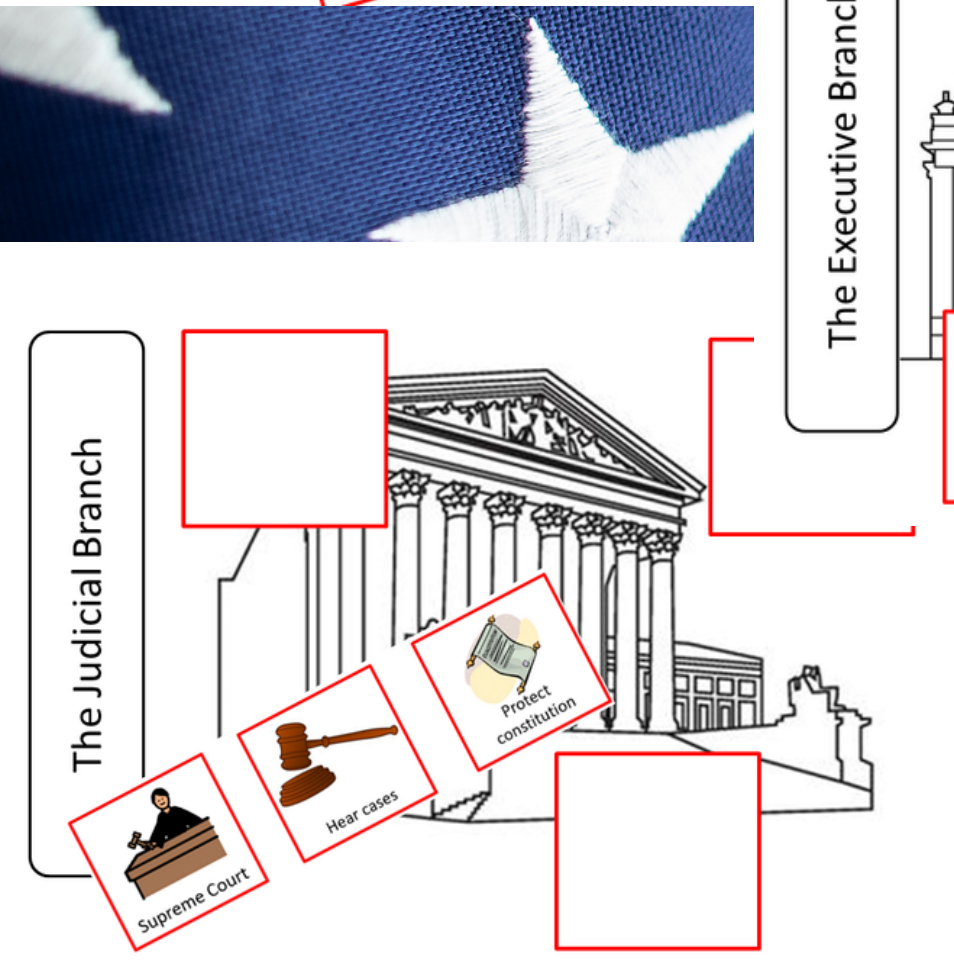
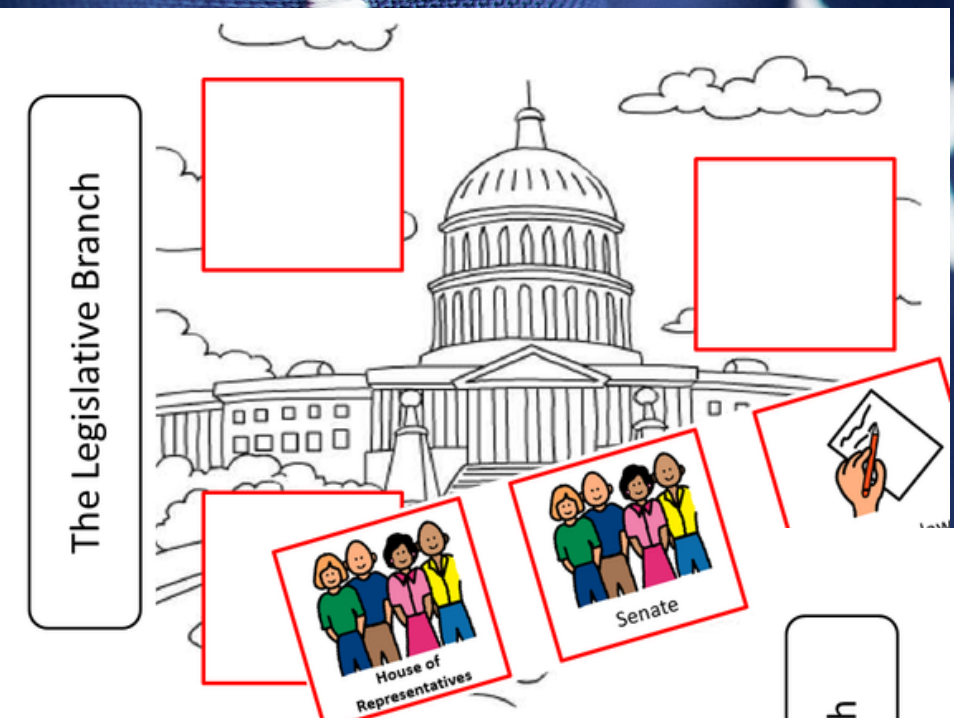
There is a 26-page book with simple text and engaging photos.

It comes in pdf version as well as a voice recorded PowerPoint (so you don't have to print it out.) There is also a movie version you can use in google slides.

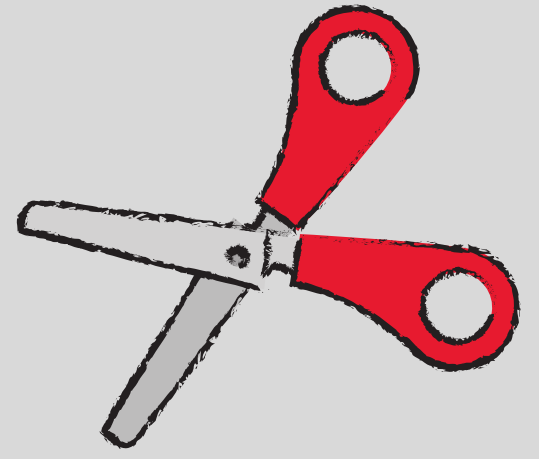
The President is in charge of keeping our country safe and in charge of all our military troops.







There are 3 collages. One for each branch of government. These are errorless activities that students can color in once done.

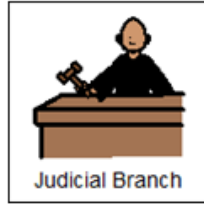




Executive Branch



Legislative Branch



Judicial Branch



court



president



vice president



House of Representatives



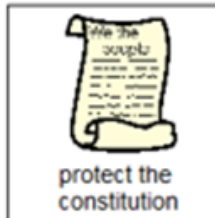
Senate



write laws



protect the country



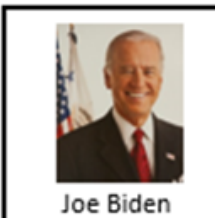
protect the constitution



9 judges



Library of Congress



Joe Biden



Kamala Harris

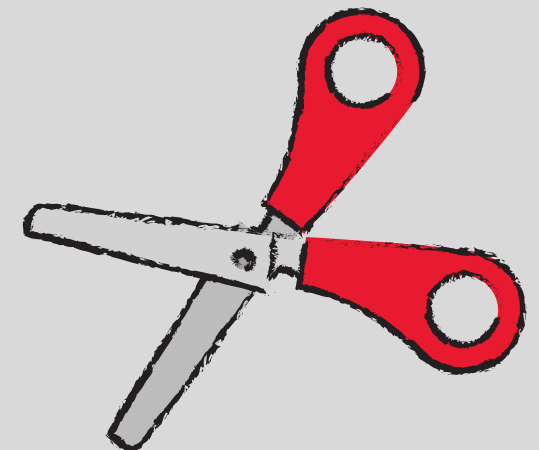


serve rest of their life



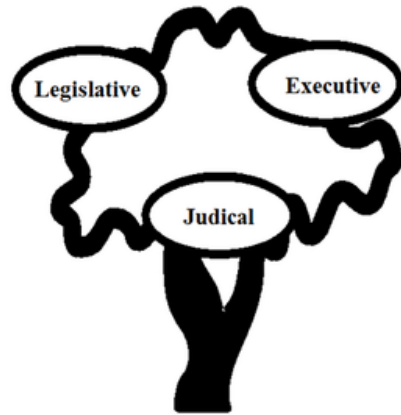
veto power

There is a sorting activity.  
Suggestions for  
differentiation are  
included.





Our  
Government



There are 3 branches  
of government.

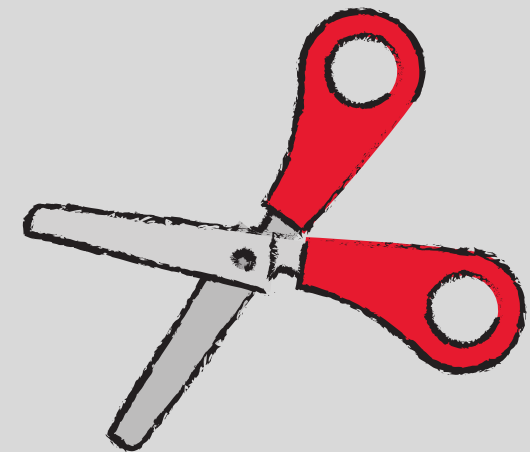


The Judicial Branch is made  
up of the Supreme Court.



The Supreme Court makes  
sure we follow the  
Constitution.

There is 12-page coloring  
book for branches of  
government. Suggestions  
for differentiation are  
included.



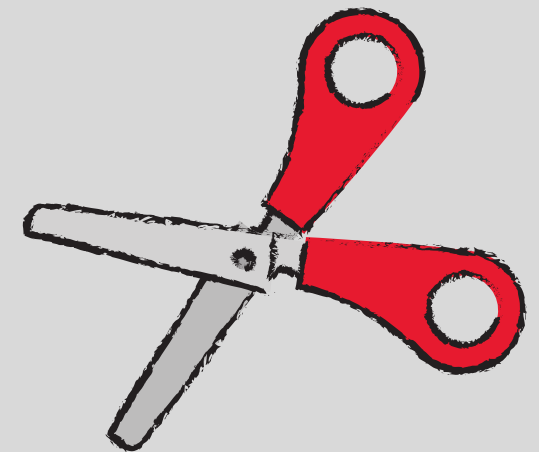


Being a good citizen means helping people around you.



Being a good citizen means taking care of your friends.

There is 14-page social story on being a good citizen using photos and simple text. Suggestions for differentiation are included.



We can all be a good citizen.



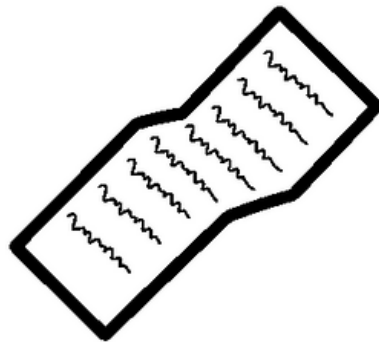
Page 1

Even you can be a good citizen.



Page 2

Being a good citizen means following the rules.



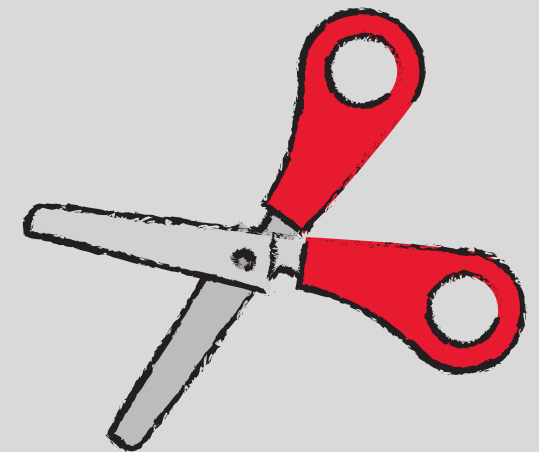
Page 5

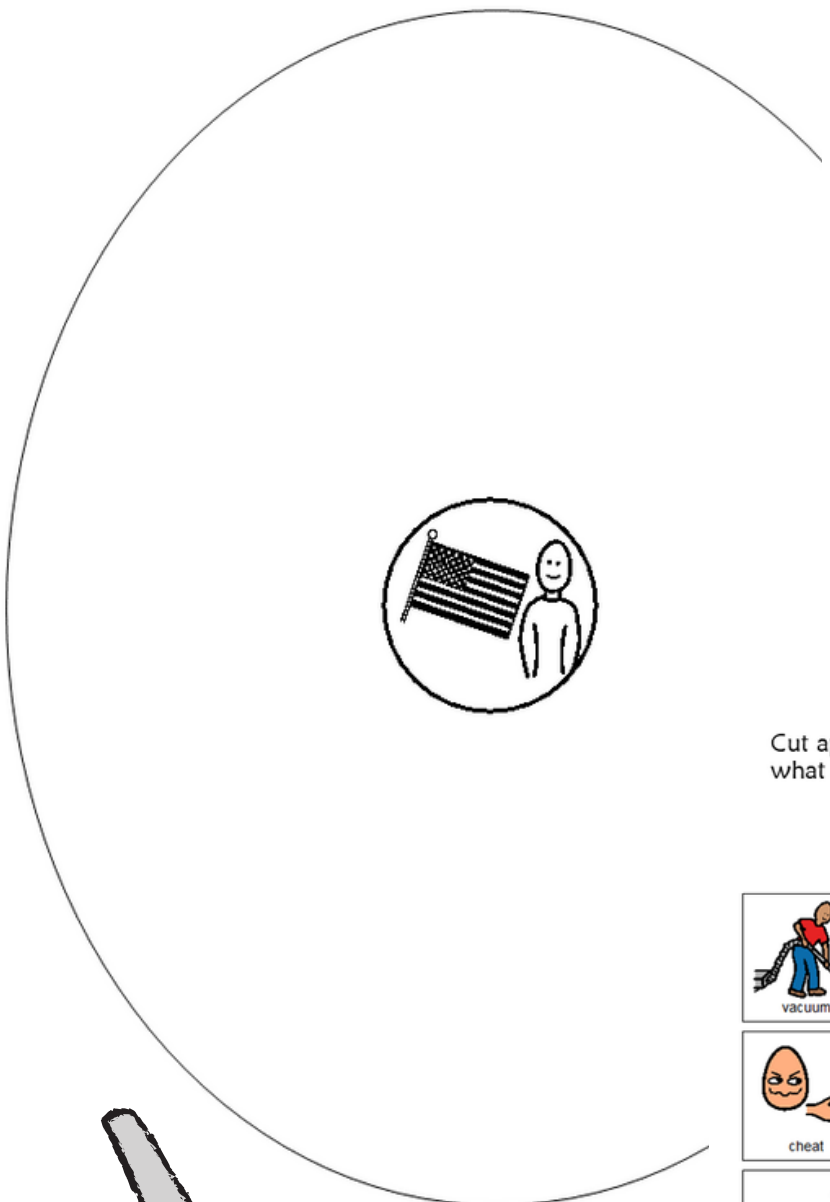
Being a good citizen means taking care of the environment.



Page 6

The social story also comes in this black and white version. Suggestions for differentiation are included.

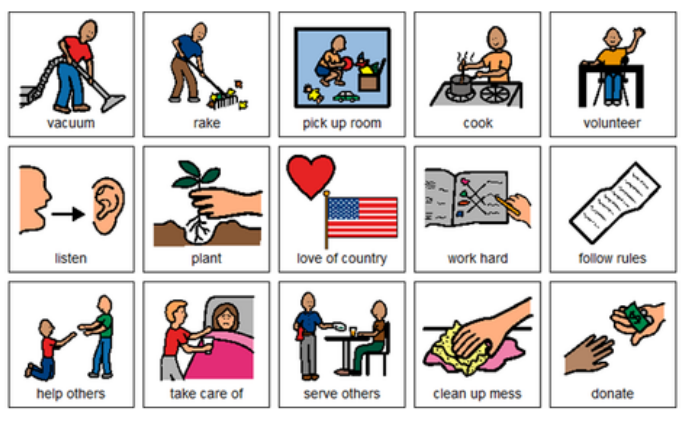




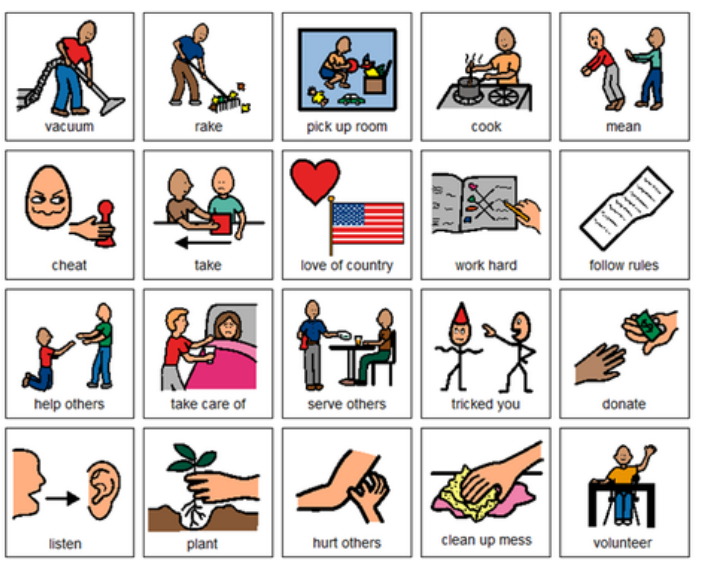
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maker® is a trademark of Tobii

Cut apart pictures and place inside circle to illustrate what a good citizen looks like.

Errorless version



Cut apart pictures and place inside circle **ONLY IF** it is what a good citizen looks like.

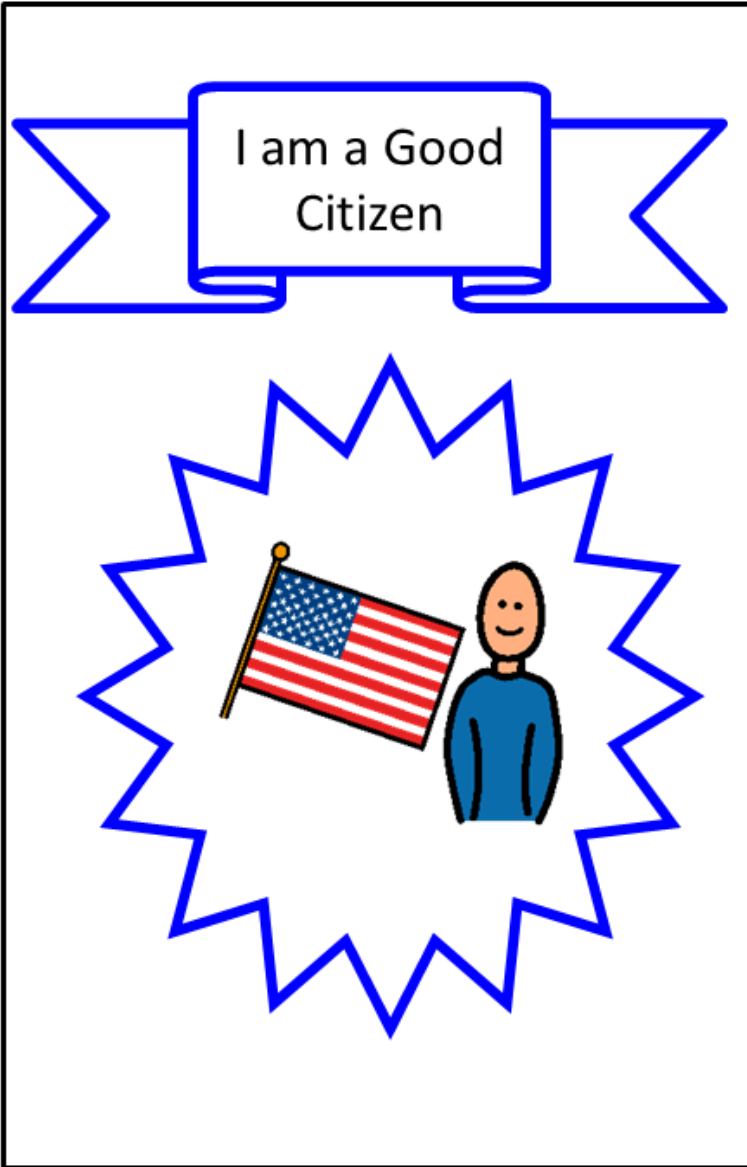


There is a circle map of what being a good citizen looks like.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

front

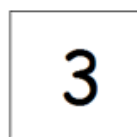


back



*There is a power card for students to put together and keep.*

1. There are how many branches of government?



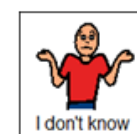
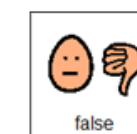
2. Which branch does the president belong to?



3. Which branch writes and makes new laws?



4. True or False: All 3 branches have equal power.



5. The Supreme Court is part of which branch?



There is a 10 question assessment.

There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.



Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 1

10	5	3
----	---	---

Q 2,3,5

 Legislative	 Executive	 Judicial
--	--	---

*With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.*

1. How many of branches of government are there?
  - a. 10
  - b. 5
  - c. 3
2. Which branch does the president belong to?
  - a. Legislative
  - b. Executive
  - c. Judicial
3. Which branch writes and makes new laws?
  - a. Legislative
  - b. Executive
  - c. Judicial
4. True or False: All 3 branches have equal power.
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. The Supreme Court is part of which branch?
  - a. Legislative
  - b. Executive
  - c. Judicial
6. What does the Supreme Court protect?
  - a. The country
  - b. The constitution
  - c. The President
7. Which of the following is part of the Legislative Branch?
  - a. House of Representatives
  - b. Supreme Court
  - c. Vice President
8. Who is the leader of the army and protects our country?
  - a. The President
  - b. The Senate
  - c. The Supreme Court

*This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.*

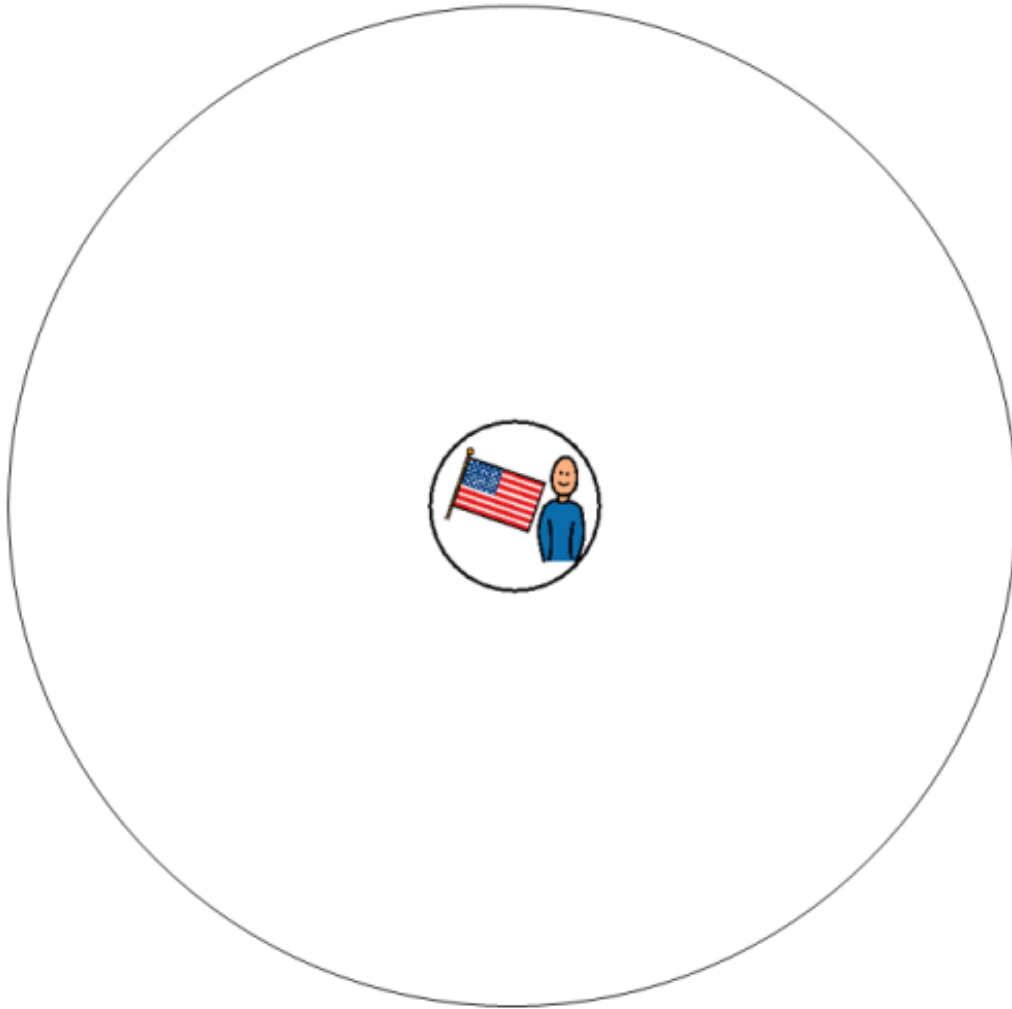
Watch the  
movie on  
The  
Branches of  
Government

The Legislative Branch is made up of the House of  
Representatives,



*This unit also includes  
digital versions of the  
activities.*

*Students can watch a  
movie book version of  
the book rather than  
printing it out.*






Place the images in the circle map to show  
good citizen looks like.



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Each activity is set up  
so students can click  
and drag answers. No  
typing is required.

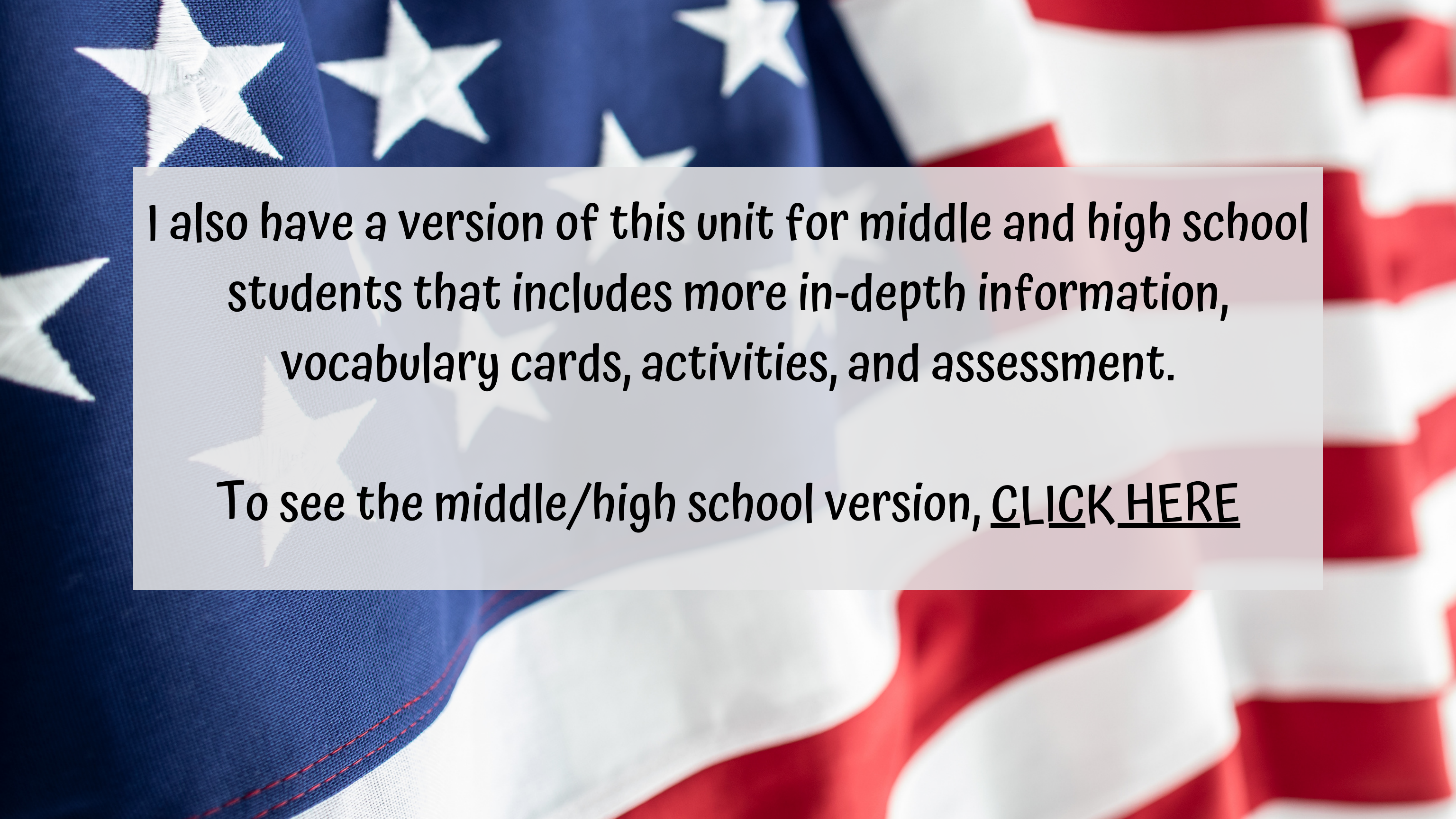
 Executive Branch	 Legislative Branch	 Judicial Branch

Sort the pictures into the correct column. If you are not sure, leave it on this side.

 court	 president	 vice president
 Senate	 protect the country	 veto power
 Library of Congress	 Joe Biden	 Kamala Harris
 veto power	 write laws	

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The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it. Mix and match slides from both sets to make the perfect set for each student.

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is draped and appears to be in motion.

*I also have a version of this unit for middle and high school students that includes more in-depth information, vocabulary cards, activities, and assessment.*

*To see the middle/high school version, [CLICK HERE](#)*



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

Most of the activities (except the books) come in color and black and white.

**[Click Here to read more!!](#)**