

A. Look at the vocabulary on pages 138 and 139. Ask the students to use each vocabulary word in a sentence.

B. Read the paragraphs below, then fill in the blanks below.



The capital of the United States is in Washington, D.C.

D.C. stands for District of Colombia. The District of Colombia is not part of any state. The capital is named after George Washington, the first president.



The capitol building in Washington, D.C. is where the U.S. Congress meets. Congress makes laws for the United States. They are called the legislative branch. To legislate is to make laws. Our congress has a Senate and a House of Representatives. Every state has 2 senators. Every state has representatives based on their population. Texas is a big state, so we have many (32) representatives. Delaware is a very small state. They only have 1 representative.



The White House is the home of the president of the U.S.. The president runs the executive branch of government with the help of some advisers called his "cabinet". The president cannot make laws. He can make other decisions, but only Congress can make laws.



The Supreme Court meets in this building. There are 9 Supreme Court Justices. They decide if laws are constitutional. That means the Constitution allows a law like that to be passed. The Supreme Court is now deciding if the Health Care Reform Act is constitutional. The Supreme Court has one leader called the Chief Justice.

There are 50 states in the U.S. Each state has a state capital. Austin is the capital of Texas. Our church is next door to the state capitol building. Each state has a governor. States also have a legislative branch and a state Supreme Court.

The leaders of cities are usually called mayors. The mayor rules the city with the help of a city council.

If you want to be president, congressman, senator, governor or mayor, you have to run for office. You have a political campaign. You raise money to buy ads and TV commercials. You debate your opponent. The election results show who won the election. If you get elected, you serve your term.

C. Fill in the Blanks:

- 1.The leader of a city is called a _____.
- 2.The leader of a state is called a _____.
- 3.The capital of Texas is _____.
- 4.Washington is named after _____ who was the _____.
- 5._____ makes laws for the U.S.
- 6.The Supreme Court decides if laws are _____.
- 7.Election results show _____.
- 8.There are 50 _____ in the U.S..
- 9.A debate is a discussion between you and your political _____.
- 10.There are 9 Supreme Court _____.
- 11.Legislate means _____.
- 12.The _____ helps the mayor run the city.
- 13.The _____ is the home of the president.
- 14.Every state has two _____.
- 15.The number of _____ for a state depends on the population of the state.

D. Discussion Questions:

- 1.Have you served in the military?
- 2.Which branch of the military did you serve in?
- 3.Do you think everyone should serve in the military?
- 4.Would you like to be mayor or governor?
- 5.Have you toured the capitol building next door?
- 6.Have you been to Washington, D.C.?
- 7.Have you ever run for office?

E. Choose the verb that fits in each sentence. Some will be used twice.

raised ran served elected won

- 1.Mr. Jones _____ in the U.S. Army.
- 2.He _____ for mayor of his city.
- 3.Mr. Jones _____ \$1,000.00 for his campaign.
- 4.Mr. Jones _____ the election.
- 5.He was _____ mayor.
- 6.Now he _____ as mayor.