



# Vocabulary Terms

**Bill of Rights** – The first 10 amendments of the Constitution

**Amendment** – To change or add a statement to a document

**Bill** – A proposed law that is presented to Senators and Representatives to vote on

**Checks and Balances** – Term given to the President as having executive power of the United States

**Chief Executive** – Someone who has allegiance to a state and is entitled to its protection

**Citizen** – Laws relating to human conduct

**Articles of Confederation** – The plan, ratified by the states in 1781, that established a national Congress with limited powers

**Commander in Chief** – Term for the President as commander of the nation's Armed Forces

**Democracy** – A form of government in which the supreme power is given to the people

**Judicial Branch** – This branch of government has the power to interpret laws and consists of the courts

**Veto** – To reject a proposed bill

**Federal Government** – The form of government where power is divided between the national government and state governments

**Donald Trump** – The current President of the United States

**Impeachment** – Formal charge brought against a public official by the lower house in a legislative body

**Law** – A rule or procedure that is enforced by a specific authority

**Constitution** – Laws of a nation or state that establish the powers of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people

**Legislative Branch** – This branch of government has the power to make laws and consists of the congress

**Political Party** – An organized group that seeks to control government through winning elections and holding public offices

**Precedent** – Previous court decisions that influence the ruling of later and similar cases

**Separation of Powers** – The principle that the executive, legislative, and judicial powers are divided equally

**John F. Kennedy** – The 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

**Election** – The process of voting to choose a person for office

**Term** – The length of time a person may serve in office once elected

**Vote** – A formal expression of one’s opinion; you do this when you elect someone to office

**Executive Branch** – This branch of government has the power to enforce laws and consists of the President