## EL/Civics Lesson Plan

Program Name
CHUH ABLE (Cleveland Heights)
Staff Responsible for Lesson $\qquad$
S. Ling

| Date(s) Used | Nov. 8, 2010 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Civics Category | III. U.S. History and Government and Citizenship Preparation |
| Civics Objective | 1. Government and Law - Basic Organization of Federal Government |
| Time Frame to Complete Lesson | $2 \frac{1}{2}$ hour class with 15 minute break |
| EFL(s) | NRS Levels 5 and 6 |
| Standard(s) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { L 5.3, L 6.3; S 5.5, S 5.6, S 6.6; R 5.2, R 5.4, R 6.1, } \\ & \text { R 6.2, R 6.3, R } 6.4 \end{aligned}$ |
| Benchmark(s) | Students participate in genuine conversations in English on topic of structure of government. <br> $\square$ Students work together in English to find answers on the Internet - using communication (speaking and listening) as well as reading skills to complete task. <br> $\square$ Students read both in handout and on Internet authentic material about structure of government and have to then rephrase the knowledge. |
| Materials | - Laptops/computers with Internet access <br> - Handouts (see attached) The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National) Government Internet Search Questions |

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$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Activities } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Students discuss their national } \\ \text { governments in small groups of 3-4 } \\ \text { students, describing how their } \\ \text { government is constructed and chosen. } \\ \text { [15 minutes] } \\ \text { Students brainstorm with teacher over } \\ \text { what they know of the construction and } \\ \text { election process of the U.S. Federal } \\ \text { Government. (Teacher should write ideas } \\ \text { on board.) [10 minutes] } \\ \text { Students read over "The Three Branches } \\ \text { of the U.S. Federal (National) } \\ \text { Government." The students should use }\end{array} \\ \text { III. } \\ \text { English-English dictionaries (hardcopy or } \\ \text { on-line with the laptops) to look up any of } \\ \text { the bold-faced words they don't } \\ \text { understand from context. [20 minutes] } \\ \text { Students re-read the text as a whole } \\ \text { group (with each student reading one or } \\ \text { so lines aloud). Teacher should stop } \\ \text { periodically for clarification and }\end{array}\right\}$

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| Reflection | Students are required to participate in authentic <br> conversations and readings on topic, allowing them <br> at each stage of lesson to review as well as go <br> deeper into the topic in the English language. |
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(attached handouts below on following pages)

## The Three Branches of the U.S. Federal (National) Government

There are three branches of the United States Government. The three branches are the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch. The legislative branch makes the country's laws. The executive branch enforces the country's laws. The judicial branch interprets the country's laws.

## Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is also called Congress. Congress has two houses. They are the House of Representatives (the lower house) and the Senate (the upper house). There are 435 congressmen and women in the House of Representatives and 100 senators in the Senate. Congressmen and women are elected for two-year terms and senators are elected for six-year terms. Neither have term limits. They are elected by the citizens of the U.S. These elections are staggered over two year intervals so that there could never be a House and Senate with all new members.

These two houses of Congress were created as a way to compromise between how power was divided between states in the national government. The upper house, the Senate, gives equal

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representation to all states, no matter the size of a state's population. This keeps larger states from ignoring the wants and needs of smaller states. The number of representatives in the House is based on a state's current population (from the last census), giving larger states more power. This keeps the minority (in smaller states) from having too great of an influence over the wants and needs of the majority (in larger states).

## Executive Branch

The executive branch is made up of the president, the vice-president, the cabinet, and the
president's special advisors. The president is elected for four-year terms and may serve no more than two terms. (The vice-president, the cabinet, and advisors can serve as long as the president who appointed them is in office.) The electoral college elects the president and vice-president; the president appoints his advisors as well as his cabinet (but the Senate must approve of his or her cabinet appointments).

The president and vice-president are the only two positions voted on by all citizens in a national vote, but the final choice of president rests with the electoral college, made up of electors. Each state has electors (the selection of electors is different in each state). The number of electors for each state is one for each senator and one for each representative of that state in the House (numbers will vary based on a state's population). These electors make the final decision on who the state will vote for in the presidential election. So in reality when a U.S. citizen casts a vote for a certain candidate, he or she is really voting for an "elector" who will make the final vote. It has been very rare that electors do not vote for the candidate who won the popular vote (had the majority of votes in a state). This system is meant to ensure

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that states with smaller populations have a more equal or "balanced" voice in the election of a president, as it makes it possible for a candidate to win the election without winning the popular vote (which happened in 2000 between Gore and Bush).

## Judicial Branch

The judicial branch is made up of the many federal courts in the U.S. The highest court in the U.S. is the Supreme Court. There are nine Supreme Court Justices. There is one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. The president appoints most federal judges, who must then be approved by the Senate. Most of these federal judges are judges for life or until they retire. (Judges on a state and local level are sometimes appointed or are sometimes elected by the citizens, depending on state and local laws.

In Ohio, most judges are elected by the citizens and have a limited term.)

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## Branches of the U.S. Federal Government

Go to http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html and with your partner(s) find the answers to following questions on the structure of the U.S. Federal Government.

1. On the first page you find when you type in the above web address, find the answers to the following questions:
a. What kind of government did the "Founding Fathers" want to form?
b. How do the parts of the government work together while also making sure the rights of citizens are not ignored or limited?
2. Now click on the blue link "Legislative Branch" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. What is the legislative branch made up of?

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b. What power did the Constitution give Congress?
c. What are the two parts of Congress?
3. Now click on the blue link "Congress" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. Where does Congress meet?
b. What is its primary duty?
c. What are its other powers?
4. Now click on the blue link "The House of Representatives" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. How many total representatives are there in the House?

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b. What does each member represent?
c. How many representatives does each state at least have?
d. What are the three requirements to be a representative?
1.
2.
3.
e. How long is the term a representative serves? Is there a limit on the number of terms a representative can serve?
f. What special jobs does the House have that only it can do?

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5. Now click on the blue link "Senate" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. How many people does each state send to the Senate? How many total senators are there in the Senate?
b. How long is the term each senator serves? Is there a limit on the number of terms a senator can serve?
c. What are the three requirements to be a senator?
6. 
7. 
8. 

d. What special jobs does the Senate only do?

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6. Now click on the purple link "Branches of Government" and then click on the blue link "Executive Branch." Find the answers to the following questions:
a. Who is the head of the executive branch of the government?
b. Who does the President get help from?
c. What special jobs do the President, Vice-President, Departments, and Independent Agencies have?

President:

Vice-President:

Departments:

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Independent Agencies:
7. Now click on the blue link "The President" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. What does the President do if he agrees with a law?
b. What can the President do if he dislikes a law? What is his action called? What can Congress do if the President does this action?
c. What can the President NOT do despite all his or her powers?
d. What are the President's and Congress's role in making treaties with other countries?

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e. What is the President's role with government workers? What is his or her role with the U.S. military?
f. What are the requirements to become President?
g. How long a term does the President serve? Is there a limit on the number of terms? If so how many and why?
8. Now click on the blue link "The President's Cabinet" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. What is the purpose of the Cabinet?

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b. Who does the Cabinet include?
c. How are the 14 secretaries from the executive departments and the Attorney General chosen?
d. Name the 15 executive department agencies:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

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8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 
12. 
13. 
14. 
15. 
16. Now click again on the purple link "Branches of Government" and then click on the blue link "Judicial Branch." Find the answers to the following questions:
a. What is the judicial branch of the government made up of?
b. What is the highest court in the U.S.?
c. What do the courts decide?

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10. Now click on the blue link "The Supreme Court" and find the answers to the following questions:
a. How many cases are sent to the Supreme Court each year? How many of those cases are actually accepted by the justices to be heard?
b. Once the Supreme Court makes a decisions what are the two ways to change that decision?
11. 
12. 

c. How any justices are on the Supreme Court? How are they chosen?

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d. How long can a justice remain on the Supreme Court?
e. What are the requirements to be a justice?
f. What former president late became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

