The United States Government: The Constitution

Location: Washington D.C.

Organization:
- The Preamble
- 7 Articles
  - Sections
  - Clauses
- 27 Amendments
The Federal System

• The Constitution set up a system in which power is shared between the national government and the individual states.

The National (Federal) Government:
  – **President, Congress, Courts**

• The State Government:
  – **Governor, Legislature, Courts**

Hi-Lite: The branches of the National and State Governments.
The Preamble

• We the People of the United States,
• Ordinary Americans will
• in order to form a more perfect Union,
• create a stronger nation by having the states unite and cooperate,
• establish Justice,
• create laws that apply to everyone equally,
• insure domestic tranquility,
• create peace and order within the nation,
• provide for the common defense,
• protect America from foreign attack,
• promote the general welfare,
• create an economy in which people can succeed and help society for the common good,
The Preamble

• and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity,
• and make sure Americans have freedom now and in the future,
• do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
• do create this Constitution for the United States of America.
A Separation of Powers

• The 3 branches of the government separate power between Congress, the President, and the Court System.

• This creates a system of checks and balances

• Each branch limits the power of the other branches.

Hi-Lite: Why have checks and balances?
The 3 Branches

• Legislative: Article I:
  Congress
• Executive: Article II:
  The Presidency
• Judicial: Article III:
  The Court System (Supreme Court)
Congress meets in the Capital Building. On the right is the Senate. On the left is the House of Representatives.
House Districts
Representative from Burbank

- Adam Schiff is the member of the House of Representatives from Burbank.
- The House part of Congress has 435 members from the 50 states.

Hi-lite: What is the name of Burbank’s representative?
Number of House Districts – set in 1913: 435
California House Districts - 53
LA County
Senators from California

- All states have 2 senators in Congress.
- California’s 2 members of the Senate are Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

Hi-lite: Who are California’s two senators?
The President lives and works in the White House
The Supreme Court of the United States.
The Court has 9 Justices
The Supreme Court Justices.