

a very big branch icivics

a very big branch icivics is a popular educational resource that helps students and learners understand the complexities of the executive branch of the United States government. Exploring “A Very Big Branch iCivics” provides valuable insights into the roles, responsibilities, and powers of the executive branch, its structure, how it interacts with other branches, and its impact on American society. This comprehensive article will guide you through the major aspects of the executive branch as presented in the iCivics curriculum, including its functions, the president’s duties, key government agencies, checks and balances, and the importance of civic education. By the end, you will have a thorough understanding of why the executive branch is described as “a very big branch” and how iCivics makes learning about government engaging and meaningful for students and educators alike.

- Understanding the Executive Branch in iCivics
- The Structure and Functions of the Executive Branch
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Understanding the Executive Branch in iCivics

The executive branch is one of the three main branches of the United States government, alongside the legislative and judicial branches. In the iCivics curriculum, “A Very Big Branch” refers specifically to the vast scope and influence of the executive branch. iCivics presents this topic in a way that is accessible to students, utilizing interactive activities, games, and lessons to demystify the executive branch’s role in American democracy. Through real-world examples and relatable scenarios, learners discover how the executive branch enforces laws, manages federal agencies, and oversees national policies. The keyword “a very big branch iCivics” emphasizes the extensive reach of this branch and the resources available for understanding it.

iCivics underscores the importance of the executive branch by highlighting its day-to-day impact on citizens, its leadership structure, and its relationship with other branches of government. By examining the executive branch through the lens of iCivics, students gain a comprehensive view of how government functions and why informed civic participation is

essential. This section sets the foundation for a deeper exploration of the executive branch's structure, powers, and significance in the following sections.

The Structure and Functions of the Executive Branch

Main Components of the Executive Branch

The executive branch consists of the president, vice president, the Cabinet, and numerous federal agencies and departments. Each component plays a unique role in executing and enforcing federal laws. The president serves as the head of the executive branch and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, while the vice president supports the president and may assume the presidency if needed. The Cabinet, composed of department heads, advises the president and helps manage the nation's major policy areas.

- President
- Vice President
- The Cabinet
- Federal Agencies (e.g., FBI, EPA, FDA)
- Executive Departments (e.g., State, Defense, Treasury)

Core Functions and Responsibilities

The executive branch is responsible for enforcing federal laws, administering government programs, conducting foreign policy, and ensuring national security. Its functions span a wide range of activities, from signing bills into law to negotiating treaties and directing military operations. iCivics illustrates these responsibilities through interactive lessons that allow students to make decisions as if they were part of the executive branch, fostering a deeper understanding of the branch's significance and scope.

The branch's functions also include appointing federal officials, issuing executive orders, and managing the day-to-day operations of the federal government. These tasks require coordination among various agencies and departments, highlighting the complexity and size of the executive branch.

The President: Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Constitutional Powers of the President

The president's powers are outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution. These powers include vetoing legislation, appointing federal judges, granting pardons, and serving as the chief diplomat. The president also has the authority to issue executive orders, which direct government operations without the need for congressional approval. iCivics provides scenarios where students analyze the president's actions and decisions to understand the constitutional basis for executive powers.

Presidential Duties and Roles

The president's responsibilities extend beyond constitutional powers. As the leader of the nation, the president sets policy agendas, communicates with the public, and represents the United States on the global stage. The president's roles include chief executive, commander-in-chief, chief legislator, chief diplomat, and party leader. Each role requires balancing competing interests and making decisions that affect millions of Americans.

1. Chief Executive: Oversees federal agencies and enforces laws.
2. Commander-in-Chief: Directs the military and national defense strategies.
3. Chief Diplomat: Manages foreign relations and negotiates treaties.
4. Chief Legislator: Influences lawmaking and policy development.
5. Party Leader: Guides and represents their political party.

Limitations and Accountability

While the president holds significant power, checks and balances ensure that the executive branch does not become too powerful. Congressional oversight, judicial review, public opinion, and media scrutiny all contribute to presidential accountability. iCivics teaches students about these limitations, encouraging them to think critically about executive authority and responsibility.

Government Agencies and Departments

Key Federal Agencies

The executive branch oversees a vast network of federal agencies and departments, each with specific duties. Major agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These organizations enforce laws, regulate industries, and protect public welfare. iCivics showcases how agencies function and interact with the president and other branches of government.

- FBI: Investigates federal crimes and ensures national security.
- EPA: Regulates environmental standards and enforces protection laws.
- FDA: Ensures the safety of food and medicines.
- Department of State: Manages foreign affairs and international relations.
- Department of Defense: Oversees military operations and national defense.

The Cabinet's Role in Governance

The Cabinet consists of the vice president and the heads of major executive departments. Cabinet members advise the president on policy decisions and help administer government programs. Each department focuses on a specific area, such as education, health, or homeland security. The Cabinet's collaboration is essential for effective governance and the successful implementation of presidential initiatives.

Checks and Balances: Executive Branch and Other Branches

Interaction with the Legislative Branch

The executive branch works closely with Congress to pass and implement laws. The president can propose legislation, veto bills, and issue executive orders, while Congress has the power to override vetoes and control government funding. This relationship ensures that no single branch dominates the government, maintaining a balance of power.

Interaction with the Judicial Branch

The judiciary reviews the actions of the executive branch to ensure they comply with the

Constitution. Courts can declare executive actions unconstitutional, serving as a check on presidential authority. iCivics highlights important Supreme Court cases and moments where judicial review has shaped executive power.

Importance of Checks and Balances

Checks and balances prevent the abuse of power and uphold democratic principles. iCivics uses interactive games and lessons to show students how the branches work together and sometimes challenge one another, deepening their understanding of government accountability and the rule of law.

Why Civic Education Matters: iCivics Approach

Engaging Students in Government Learning

iCivics is dedicated to making civic education accessible, engaging, and relevant. By focusing on critical topics like “a very big branch iCivics,” the curriculum empowers students with the knowledge and skills needed for informed citizenship. Interactive games, role-playing activities, and real-world scenarios help learners grasp complex concepts and recognize the importance of active participation in government.

Benefits of Understanding the Executive Branch

Knowledge of the executive branch enables citizens to make informed decisions, participate in elections, and hold leaders accountable. iCivics ensures that students understand both the strengths and limits of executive power, fostering a generation of engaged and responsible citizens.

- Promotes critical thinking and civic responsibility
- Enhances understanding of government processes
- Encourages participation in democracy
- Prepares students for future leadership roles

Key Takeaways from "A Very Big Branch" iCivics

“A Very Big Branch iCivics” delivers a thorough exploration of the executive branch, its

structure, and its role in American democracy. The curriculum provides essential knowledge about the president's powers, the function of federal agencies, and the importance of checks and balances. By engaging students with interactive content, iCivics helps learners connect classroom lessons to real-world government issues, promoting lifelong civic engagement and understanding.

Through the study of "a very big branch icivics," students gain insight into how federal laws are enforced, how government agencies operate, and why an informed and involved citizenry is vital for the health of democracy. This foundational knowledge equips individuals to participate effectively in civic life and uphold the principles upon which the United States was founded.

Q: What is "A Very Big Branch" in iCivics?

A: "A Very Big Branch" is an iCivics educational lesson that focuses on teaching students about the executive branch of the U.S. government, including its structure, powers, and responsibilities.

Q: Why is the executive branch called "a very big branch"?

A: The executive branch is called "a very big branch" because it encompasses the president, vice president, Cabinet, and numerous federal agencies, making it the largest and most complex branch of the U.S. government.

Q: What are the main functions of the executive branch highlighted in iCivics?

A: The executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws, managing federal agencies, conducting foreign policy, and ensuring national security, all of which are explained in detail in iCivics lessons.

Q: How does iCivics make learning about the executive branch engaging?

A: iCivics uses interactive games, real-world scenarios, and role-playing activities to help students understand the executive branch and its importance to American democracy.

Q: What are some key agencies under the executive branch?

A: Key agencies include the FBI, EPA, FDA, Department of State, and Department of Defense, all overseen by the executive branch and highlighted in the iCivics curriculum.

Q: How do checks and balances affect the executive branch?

A: Checks and balances ensure that the executive branch does not become too powerful by allowing Congress and the judiciary to oversee and limit executive actions.

Q: What powers does the president have according to iCivics?

A: According to iCivics, the president has powers such as vetoing legislation, appointing officials, issuing executive orders, leading the military, and conducting foreign affairs.

Q: Why is civic education about the executive branch important?

A: Civic education helps students understand government processes, promotes responsible citizenship, and prepares them to participate in democracy and hold leaders accountable.

Q: What roles does the president play as described in iCivics?

A: The president acts as chief executive, commander-in-chief, chief diplomat, chief legislator, and party leader, each with distinct responsibilities.

Q: How can students benefit from learning "A Very Big Branch" iCivics?

A: Students gain critical thinking skills, knowledge of government, and the ability to participate effectively as informed citizens by studying the executive branch through iCivics.

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A Very Big Branch iCivics: Understanding the Judicial Branch's Power

Have you ever wondered about the seemingly quiet but immensely powerful branch of the US government? We're talking about the judicial branch, often overlooked in favor of the more overtly active legislative and executive branches. iCivics, the award-winning educational program, provides an engaging way to understand this crucial aspect of American governance through its game, "A Very Big Branch." This post will delve deep into the game, exploring its mechanics, the underlying concepts it teaches, and how it effectively illuminates the role and influence of the Supreme Court and the judicial system as a whole. We'll break down the key takeaways, connect them to real-world examples, and provide you with a complete understanding of why "A Very Big Branch" is such a valuable learning tool.

Understanding the iCivics Game: "A Very Big Branch"

"A Very Big Branch" is an interactive game designed to help students grasp the complexities of the Supreme Court and the judicial review process. It's not just about memorizing facts; it's about experiencing the decision-making process firsthand. Players act as Supreme Court justices, weighing arguments, considering precedents, and ultimately deciding the fate of crucial cases. The game cleverly simplifies the legal jargon while maintaining the core principles of judicial review. The engaging gameplay makes learning about often-dry legal concepts surprisingly fun and memorable.

Key Concepts Explored in "A Very Big Branch"

Judicial Review: This fundamental principle, the power of the judiciary to review laws and government actions for constitutionality, is the heart of the game. "A Very Big Branch" allows players to grapple with this concept directly, forcing them to analyze arguments and determine whether laws align with the Constitution.

Precedent (Stare Decisis): The game highlights the importance of precedent – past court decisions that guide future rulings. Understanding how precedent shapes legal outcomes is crucial for comprehending the judicial branch's consistency and evolution. Players learn how past decisions influence their current choices.

Majority Opinion, Concurring Opinions, and Dissenting Opinions: "A Very Big Branch" showcases the nuanced nature of Supreme Court decisions. Players not only make the majority decision but also witness the diversity of opinions within the court. This illustrates the dynamic interaction and often differing perspectives among justices.

Constitutional Interpretation: The game doesn't just present cases; it challenges players to interpret the Constitution itself. This process of textual analysis and application to specific situations is a crucial aspect of judicial decision-making that the game masterfully imparts.

Real-World Connections and the Relevance of "A Very Big Branch"

The cases presented in "A Very Big Branch" are simplified versions of real-world Supreme Court cases, allowing players to engage with historical and contemporary legal issues. This contextualization enhances understanding and helps students see the real-world impact of judicial decisions. The game's ability to bridge the gap between abstract legal concepts and tangible consequences makes it particularly effective.

Beyond the Game: Further Exploration of the Judicial Branch

While "A Very Big Branch" provides a fantastic introduction, it's important to expand knowledge beyond the game. Researching actual Supreme Court cases and justices, exploring the history of judicial review, and understanding the structure of the federal court system will further solidify comprehension. Exploring resources like the Supreme Court's website and other educational materials can supplement the game's learning experience.

Conclusion

"A Very Big Branch" iCivics is more than just a game; it's a powerful educational tool that successfully demystifies the complex world of the judicial branch. By engaging players in simulated Supreme Court deliberations, the game fosters a deeper understanding of judicial review, precedent, and the role of the judiciary in American democracy. Its interactive format and real-world connections make it an exceptional resource for students of all ages, fostering civic engagement and a greater appreciation for the vital role of the courts in upholding the Constitution.

FAQs

1. What age group is "A Very Big Branch" suitable for? The game is designed to be engaging and understandable for middle and high school students, though adaptable for younger or older learners with appropriate guidance.
2. Is the game available online for free? Yes, "A Very Big Branch" is freely accessible on the iCivics website.
3. Does the game require prior knowledge of law or the Constitution? No, the game introduces the necessary concepts in an accessible manner, making it suitable for learners with limited prior

knowledge.

4. How can educators use "A Very Big Branch" in the classroom? Educators can use the game as a stand-alone activity, integrate it into a larger unit on the judicial branch, or use it as a springboard for class discussions and further research.

5. Are there other similar iCivics games that complement "A Very Big Branch"? Yes, iCivics offers a range of other engaging games that explore different aspects of American government and civics, providing a comprehensive learning experience. Many focus on specific branches or aspects of the legal system.

a very big branch icivics: Power Play Asi Burak, Laura Parker, 2017-01-31 "An insider's view of the good things that can emerge from being glued to a screen. . . . A solid piece of pop-culture/business journalism." —Kirkus Reviews The phenomenal growth of gaming has inspired plenty of hand-wringing since its inception—from the press, politicians, parents, and everyone else concerned with its effect on our brains, bodies, and hearts. But what if games could be good, not only for individuals but for the world? In *Power Play*, Asi Burak and Laura Parker explore how video games are now pioneering innovative social change around the world. As the former executive director and now chairman of Games for Change, Asi Burak has spent the last ten years supporting and promoting the use of video games for social good, in collaboration with leading organizations like the White House, NASA, World Bank, and The United Nations. The games for change movement has introduced millions of players to meaningful experiences around everything from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the US Constitution. *Power Play* looks to the future of games as a global movement. Asi Burak and Laura Parker profile the luminaries behind some of the movement's most iconic games, including former Supreme Court judge Sandra Day O'Connor and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. They also explore the promise of virtual reality to address social and political issues with unprecedented immersion, and see what the next generation of game makers have in store for the future.

a very big branch icivics: Fault Lines in the Constitution Cynthia Levinson, Sanford Levinson, 2017-09-01 Many of the political issues we struggle with today have their roots in the US Constitution. Husband-and-wife team Cynthia and Sanford Levinson take readers back to the creation of this historic document and discuss how contemporary problems were first introduced—then they offer possible solutions. Think Electoral College, gerrymandering, even the Senate. Many of us take these features in our system for granted. But they came about through haggling in an overheated room in 1787, and we're still experiencing the ramifications. Each chapter in this timely and thoughtful exploration of the Constitution's creation begins with a story—all but one of them true—that connects directly back to a section of the document that forms the basis of our society and government. From the award-winning team, Cynthia Levinson, children's book author, and Sanford Levinson, constitutional law scholar, *Fault Lines in the Constitution* will encourage exploration and discussion from young and old readers alike.

a very big branch icivics: Inventing the American Presidency Thomas E. Cronin, 1989 In fourteen essays, supplemented by relevant sections of and amendments to the Constitution and five Federalist essays by Hamilton--provides the reader with the essential historical and political analyses of who and what shaped the presidency.

a very big branch icivics: EAccess to Justice Karim Benyekhlef, Jacquelyn Burkell, Jane Bailey, Fabien Gélinas, 2016-10-14 How can we leverage digitization to improve access to justice without compromising the fundamental principles of our legal system? *eAccess to Justice* describes the challenges that come with the integration of technology into our courtrooms, and explores lessons learned from digitization projects from around the world.

a very big branch icivics: American Government 3e Glen Krutz, Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2023-05-12

Black & white print. American Government 3e aligns with the topics and objectives of many government courses. Faculty involved in the project have endeavored to make government workings, issues, debates, and impacts meaningful and memorable to students while maintaining the conceptual coverage and rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from the fundamental principles of institutional design at the founding, to avenues of political participation, to thorough coverage of the political structures that constitute American government. The book builds upon what students have already learned and emphasizes connections between topics as well as between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses, future careers, and as engaged citizens. In order to help students understand the ways that government, society, and individuals interconnect, the revision includes more examples and details regarding the lived experiences of diverse groups and communities within the United States. The authors and reviewers sought to strike a balance between confronting the negative and harmful elements of American government, history, and current events, while demonstrating progress in overcoming them. In doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

a very big branch icivics: Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Graphic Novel Cynthia Levinson, Sanford Levinson, 2020-09-22 The latest volume in our World Citizen Comics graphic novel series, *Fault Lines in the Constitution* teaches readers how this founding document continues to shape modern American society. In 1787, after 116 days of heated debates and bitter arguments, the United States Constitution was created. This imperfect document set forth America's guiding principles, but it would also introduce some of today's most contentious political issues—from gerrymandering, to the Electoral College, to presidential impeachment. With colorful art, compelling discourse, and true stories from America's past and present, *Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Graphic Novel* sheds light on how today's political struggles have their origins in the decisions of our Founding Fathers. Children's book author Cynthia Levinson, constitutional law scholar Sanford Levinson, and artist Ally Shwed deftly illustrate how contemporary problems arose from this founding document—and then they offer possible solutions. This book is part of the World Citizen Comics series, a bold line of civics-focused graphic novels that equip readers to be engaged citizens and informed voters.

a very big branch icivics: Creativity in the Classroom Alane J. Starko, 2010 The fourth edition of this well-known text continues the mission of its predecessors — to help teachers link creativity research and theory to the everyday activities of classroom teaching. Part I (chs 1-5) includes information on models and theories of creativity, characteristics of creative people, and talent development. Part II (chapters 6-10) includes strategies explicitly designed to teach creative thinking, to weave creative thinking into content area instruction, and to organize basic classroom activities (grouping, lesson planning, assessment, motivation and classroom organization) in ways that support students' creativity. Changes in this Edition: Improved Organization -- This edition has been reorganized from 8 to 10 chapters allowing the presentation of theoretical material in clearer, more manageable chunks. New Material — In addition to general updating, there are more examples involving middle and secondary school teaching, more examples linking creativity to technology, new information on the misdiagnosis of creative students as ADHD, and more material on cross-cultural concepts of creativity, collaborative creativity, and linking creativity to state standards. Pedagogy & Design — Chapter-opening vignettes, within-chapter reflection questions and activities, sample lesson ideas from real teachers, and end-of-chapter journaling activities help readers adapt content to their own teaching situations. Also, a larger trim makes the layout more open and appealing and a single end-of-book reference section makes referencing easier. Targeted specifically to educators (but useful to others), this book is suitable for any course that deals wholly or partly with creativity in teaching, teaching the gifted and talented, or teaching thinking and problem solving. Such courses are variously found in departments of special education, early

childhood education, curriculum and instruction, or educational psychology.

a very big branch icivics: *Democracy and Philanthropy* Eric John Abrahamson, 2013-10

a very big branch icivics: Reimagining Pakistan Husain Haqqani, 2018-04-09 Salman Rushdie once described Pakistan as a 'poorly imagined country'. Indeed, Pakistan has meant different things to different people since its birth seventy years ago. Armed with nuclear weapons and dominated by the military and militants, it is variously described around the world as 'dangerous', 'unstable', 'a terrorist incubator' and 'the land of the intolerant'. Much of Pakistan's dysfunction is attributable to an ideology tied to religion and to hostility with the country out of which it was carved out -- India. But 95 per cent of Pakistan's 210 million people were born after Partition, as Pakistanis, and cannot easily give up on their home. In his new book, Husain Haqqani, one of the most important commentators on Pakistan in the world today, calls for a bold re-conceptualization of the country. *Reimagining Pakistan* offers a candid discussion of Pakistan's origins and its current failings, with suggestions for reconsidering its ideology, and identifies a national purpose greater than the rivalry with India.

a very big branch icivics: *Truth Decay* Kavanagh, Michael D. Rich, 2018-01-16 Political and civil discourse in the United States is characterized by "Truth Decay," defined as increasing disagreement about facts, a blurring of the line between opinion and fact, an increase in the relative volume of opinion compared with fact, and lowered trust in formerly respected sources of factual information. This report explores the causes and wide-ranging consequences of Truth Decay and proposes strategies for further action.

a very big branch icivics: The Character of Curriculum Studies W. Pinar, 2011-12-19 Assembles essays addressing the recurring question of the 'subject,' understood both as human person and school subject, thereby elaborating the subjective and disciplinary character of curriculum studies.

a very big branch icivics: Translating the Language of the Syrian Revolution (2011/12) Eylaf Bader Eddin, 2023-11-20 While the Arab revolutions have obviously triggered extensive social and political changes, the far-reaching consequences of the cultural and discursive changes have yet to be adequately considered. For activists, researchers and journalists, the revolution was primarily a revolution in language; a break with the linguistic oppression and the rigidity of the old regimes. This break was accompanied by the emergence of new languages, which made it possible to inform, tell and translate the ongoing events and transformations. This language of the revolution was carried out into the world by competing voices from Syria (by local and foreign researchers, activists, and journalists). The core of this project is to find the various translations of the language of the Syrian revolution (2011 -2012) from Arabic to English to study and analyze. In addition, the discursive and non-discursive dimensions of the revolution are to be seen as another act of translation, including the language of the banners, slogans, graffiti, songs and their representation in English. This research aims, in addition to contextualizing the language of the revolution, to demonstrate how this language was translated into English through three levels of translation. The first explores the context of translations from Arabic into English and examines three English books written about Syria. The second level sees translation as an act of importation into the dominant discourse and is exemplified with three books representing the revolutionary language. The third, and last, level looks at translation from the margin to the center, represented by activist translations from Arabic into English. The research tries to study how translations of the language of the Syrian revolution are reshaped after leaving their originating discourse and entering the English one

a very big branch icivics: Freedom Walkers Russell Freedman, 2009-02-28 A riveting account of the civil rights boycott that changed history by the foremost author of history for young people. Now a classic, Freedman's book tells the dramatic stories of the heroes who stood up against segregation and Jim Crow laws in 1950s Alabama. Full of eyewitness reports, iconic photographs from the era, and crucial primary sources, this work brings history to life for modern readers. This engaging look at one of the best-known events of the American Civil Rights Movement feels immediate and relevant, reminding readers that the Boycott is not distant history, but one step in a

fight for equality that continues today. Freedman focuses not only on well-known figures like Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr., but on the numerous people who contributed by organizing carpools, joining protests, supporting legal defense efforts, and more. He showcases an often-overlooked side of activism and protest-- the importance of cooperation and engagement, and the ways in which ordinary people can stand up for their beliefs and bring about meaningful change in the world around them. Freedom Walkers has long been a library and classroom staple, but as interest in the history of protest and the Civil Rights Movement grows, it's a perfect introduction for anyone looking to learn more about the past-- and an inspiration to take action and shape the future. Recipient of an Orbis Pictus Honor, the Flora Stieglitz Straus Award, and the Jane Addams Peace Association Honor Book Award, Freedom Walkers received five starred reviews. A map, source notes, full bibliography, and other backmatter is included.

a very big branch icivics: From Kargil to the Coup Nasim Zehra, 2018

a very big branch icivics: Reading Like a Historian Sam Wineburg, Daisy Martin, Chauncey Monte-Sano, 2015-04-26 This practical resource shows you how to apply Sam Wineburg's highly acclaimed approach to teaching, Reading Like a Historian, in your middle and high school classroom to increase academic literacy and spark students' curiosity. Chapters cover key moments in American history, beginning with exploration and colonization and ending with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

a very big branch icivics: The EduProtocol Field Guide Marlena Hebern, Corippo Jon, 2018-01-24 Are you ready to break out of the lesson-and-worksheet rut? Use The EduProtocol Field Guide to create engaging and effective instruction, build culture, and deliver content to K-12 students in a supportive, creative environment.

a very big branch icivics: Mediaweek, 2010

a very big branch icivics: Positive Psychology in the Elementary School Classroom Patty O'Grady, 2013-03-11 Use the neuroscience of emotional learning to transform your teaching. How can the latest breakthroughs in the neuroscience of emotional learning transform the classroom? How can teachers use the principles and practices of positive psychology to ensure optimal 21st-century learning experiences for all children? Patty O'Grady answers those questions. Positive Psychology in the Elementary School Classroom presents the basics of positive psychology to educators and provides interactive resources to enrich teachers' proficiency when using positive psychology in the classroom. O'Grady underlines the importance of teaching the whole child: encouraging social awareness and positive relationships, fostering self-motivation, and emphasizing social and emotional learning. Through the use of positive psychology in the classroom, children can learn to be more emotionally aware of their own and others' feelings, use their strengths to engage academically and socially, pursue meaningful lives, and accomplish their personal goals. The book begins with Martin Seligman's positive psychology principles, and continues into an overview of affective learning, including its philosophical and psychological roots, from finding the "golden mean" of emotional regulation to finding a child's potencies and "golden self." O'Grady connects the core concepts of educational neuroscience to the principles of positive psychology, explaining how feelings permeate the brain, affecting children's thoughts and actions; how insular neurons make us feel empathy and help us learn by observation; and how the frontal cortex is the hall monitor of the brain. The book is full of practical examples and interactive resources that invite every educator to create a positive psychology classroom, where children can flourish and reach their full potential.

a very big branch icivics: Vote for Our Future! Margaret McNamara, 2020-02-18 In this charming and powerful picture book about voting and elections, the students of Stanton Elementary School learn how we can find--and use--our voices for change. Every two years, on the first Tuesday of November, Stanton Elementary School closes for the day. For vacation? Nope! For repairs? No way! Stanton Elementary School closes so that it can transform itself into a polling station. People can come from all over to vote for the people who will make laws for the country. Sure, the Stanton Elementary School students might be too young to vote themselves, but that doesn't mean they can't encourage their parents, friends, and family to vote! After all, voting is how this country sees change--and by voting today, we can inspire tomorrow's voters to change the future.

a very big branch icivics: Brandweek , 2010-07

a very big branch icivics: Adweek , 2010

a very big branch icivics: Just Help! Sonia Sotomayor, 2022-01-25 From the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller Just Ask! comes a fun and meaningful story about making the world--and your community--better, one action at a time, that asks the question: Who will you help today? Every night when Sonia goes to bed, Mami asks her the same question: How did you help today? And since Sonia wants to help her community, just like her Mami does, she always makes sure she has a good answer to Mami's question. In a story inspired by her own family's desire to help others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor takes young readers on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world for themselves and their community. With art by award-winning illustrator Angela Dominguez, this book shows how we can all help make the world a better place each and every day. Praise for Just Help!: Generosity proves contagious in this personal portrait of community service by Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor. --Publishers Weekly For use in civics units or in lessons on being a good neighbor, this provides wonderful encouragement to show that children can help in big and small ways. --School Library Journal

a very big branch icivics: Math, Grade 8 Baldwin, 2015-12-01 Interactive Notebooks: Math for grade 8 is a fun way to teach and reinforce effective note taking for students. Students become a part of the learning process with activities about rational numbers, multistep equations, functions, the Pythagorean theorem, scatter plots, and more! This book is an essential resource that will guide you through setting up, creating, and maintaining interactive notebooks for skill retention in the classroom. High-interest and hands-on, interactive notebooks effectively engage students in learning new concepts. Students are encouraged to personalize interactive notebooks to fit their specific learning needs by creating fun, colorful pages for each topic. With this note-taking process, students will learn organization, color coding, summarizing, and other important skills while creating personalized portfolios of their individual learning that they can reference throughout the year. Spanning grades kindergarten to grade 8, the Interactive Notebooks series focuses on grade-specific math, language arts, or science skills. Aligned to meet current state standards, every 96-page book in this series offers lesson plans to keep the process focused. Reproducibles are included to create notebook pages on a variety of topics, making this series a fun, one-of-a-kind learning experience.

a very big branch icivics: The Progressive Era Murray N. Rothbard, 2017-10-06 Rothbard's posthumous masterpiece is the definitive book on the Progressives. It will soon be the must read study of this dreadful time in our past. — From the Foreword by Judge Andrew P. Napolitano The current relationship between the modern state and the economy has its roots in the Progressive Era. — From the Introduction by Patrick Newman Progressivism brought the triumph of institutionalized racism, the disfranchising of blacks in the South, the cutting off of immigration, the building up of trade unions by the federal government into a tripartite big government, big business, big unions alliance, the glorifying of military virtues and conscription, and a drive for American expansion abroad. In short, the Progressive Era ushered the modern American politico-economic system into being. — From the Preface by Murray N. Rothbard

a very big branch icivics: Nine and Counting Barbara Boxer, Susan Collins, Dianne Feinstein, The USA Girl Scouts of, Whitney Catherine, 2001-07-24 The Women of the United States Senate have forever changed the political landscape. Their backgrounds, personal styles, and political ideals may be as diverse as the nation they serve. Yet they share a commonality that runs deeper than politics or geography -- they desire to give a voice to all their constituents while serving as role models for women young and old. Once every month, these distinguished women for an informal dinner to share their knowledge, their hearts, and a good meal. Leaving behind partisanship and rhetoric, they discuss and debate the issues, both political and personal, affecting their lives. And following the 2000 election of four women to the Senate, the table is now set for thirteen. Weaving together their individual stories of triumph, adversity, adaptability, and leadership, Nine and Counting gives voice to these charismatic women as never before, offering a rare, insider's glimpse

into Washington and sending the powerful message that membership in the world's most exclusive club is open to every woman in America.

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a very big branch icivics: *Supreme Inequality* Adam Cohen, 2020-02-25 "Meticulously researched and engagingly written . . . a comprehensive indictment of the court's rulings in areas ranging from campaign finance and voting rights to poverty law and criminal justice." —Financial Times A revelatory examination of the conservative direction of the Supreme Court over the last fifty years. In *Supreme Inequality*, bestselling author Adam Cohen surveys the most significant Supreme Court rulings since the Nixon era and exposes how, contrary to what Americans like to believe, the Supreme Court does little to protect the rights of the poor and disadvantaged; in fact, it has not been on their side for fifty years. Cohen proves beyond doubt that the modern Court has been one of the leading forces behind the nation's soaring level of economic inequality, and that an institution revered as a source of fairness has been systematically making America less fair. A triumph of American legal, political, and social history, *Supreme Inequality* holds to account the highest court in the land and shows how much damage it has done to America's ideals of equality, democracy, and justice for all.

a very big branch icivics: *The Political Classroom* Diana E. Hess, Paula McAvoy, 2014-11-13 WINNER 2016 Grawemeyer Award in Education Helping students develop their ability to deliberate political questions is an essential component of democratic education, but introducing political issues into the classroom is pedagogically challenging and raises ethical dilemmas for teachers. Diana E. Hess and Paula McAvoy argue that teachers will make better professional judgments about these issues if they aim toward creating political classrooms, which engage students in deliberations about questions that ask, How should we live together? Based on the findings from a large, mixed-method study about discussions of political issues within high school classrooms, *The Political Classroom* presents in-depth and engaging cases of teacher practice. Paying particular attention to how political polarization and social inequality affect classroom dynamics, Hess and McAvoy promote a coherent plan for providing students with a nonpartisan political education and for improving the quality of classroom deliberations.

a very big branch icivics: *Transitional Justice, Culture, and Society* Clara Ramirez-Barat, 2014 Transitional justice processes have a fundamental public dimension: their impact depends in part on the social support they receive. Beyond outreach programs, other initiatives, such as media and cultural interventions, can strengthen--or in some cases undermine--the public resonance of transitional justice. How can media and art be used to engage society in discussions around accountability? How do media influence social perceptions and attitudes toward the legacy of the past? To what extent is social engagement in the public sphere necessary to advance the political transformation that transitional justice measures hope to promote? Examining the roles that culture and society play in transitional justice contexts, this volume focuses on the ways in which communicative practices can raise public awareness of and reflection upon the legacies of mass abuse. -- Publisher's description.

a very big branch icivics: *The Great Big Book of Funtastic Math* Scholastic Inc, 2010 This book is jam-packed with engaging, ready-to-use activities including learning games, puzzles, and real-life problems that teach important math concepts in multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, geometry, measurement, and much more. Geared to the NCTM Standards, this resource is filled with reproducibles, assessment ideas, and practical teaching tips to help teachers reach students of all learning styles. For use with Grades 4-8.

a very big branch icivics: *Rethinking Social Studies Teacher Education in the*

Twenty-First Century Alicia R. Crowe, Alexander Cuenca, 2015-11-26 In this volume teacher educators explicitly and implicitly share their visions for the purposes, experiences, and commitments necessary for social studies teacher preparation in the twenty-first century. It is divided into six sections where authors reconsider: 1) purposes, 2) course curricula, 3) collaboration with on-campus partners, 4) field experiences, 5) community connections, and 6) research and the political nature of social studies teacher education. The chapters within each section provide critical insights for social studies researchers, teacher educators, and teacher education programs. Whether readers begin to question what are we teaching social studies teachers for, who should we collaborate with to advance teacher learning, or how should we engage in the politics of teacher education, this volume leads us to consider what ideas, structures, and connections are most worthwhile for social studies teacher education in the twenty-first century to pursue.

a very big branch icivics: The European Union Kristin Archick, 2019-09-15 The European Union (EU) is a political and economic partnership that represents a unique form of cooperation among sovereign countries. The EU is the latest stage in a process of integration begun after World War II, initially by six Western European countries, to foster interdependence and make another war in Europe unthinkable. The EU currently consists of 28 member states, including most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and has helped to promote peace, stability, and economic prosperity throughout the European continent. The EU has been built through a series of binding treaties. Over the years, EU member states have sought to harmonize laws and adopt common policies on an increasing number of economic, social, and political issues. EU member states share a customs union; a single market in which capital, goods, services, and people move freely; a common trade policy; and a common agricultural policy. Nineteen EU member states use a common currency (the euro), and 22 member states participate in the Schengen area of free movement in which internal border controls have been eliminated. In addition, the EU has been developing a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), which includes a Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), and pursuing cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) to forge common internal security measures. Member states work together through several EU institutions to set policy and to promote their collective interests. In recent years, however, the EU has faced a number of internal and external crises. Most notably, in a June 2016 public referendum, voters in the United Kingdom (UK) backed leaving the EU. The pending British exit from the EU (dubbed Brexit) comes amid multiple other challenges, including the rise of populist and to some extent anti-EU political parties, concerns about democratic backsliding in some member states (including Poland and Hungary), ongoing pressures related to migration, a heightened terrorism threat, and a resurgent Russia. The United States has supported the European integration project since its inception in the 1950s as a means to prevent another catastrophic conflict on the European continent and foster democratic allies and strong trading partners. Today, the United States and the EU have a dynamic political partnership and share a huge trade and investment relationship. Despite periodic tensions in U.S.-EU relations over the years, U.S. and EU policymakers alike have viewed the partnership as serving both sides' overall strategic and economic interests. EU leaders are anxious about the Trump Administration's commitment to the EU project, the transatlantic partnership, and an open international trading system-especially amid the Administration's imposition of tariffs on EU steel and aluminum products since 2018 and the prospects of future auto tariffs. In July 2018, President Trump reportedly called the EU a foe on trade but the Administration subsequently sought to de-escalate U.S.-EU tensions and signaled its intention to launch new U.S.-EU trade negotiations. Concerns also linger in Brussels about the implications of the Trump Administration's America First foreign policy and its positions on a range of international issues, including Russia, Iran, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, climate change, and the role of multilateral institutions. This report serves as a primer on the EU. Despite the UK's vote to leave the EU, the UK remains a full member of the bloc until it officially exits the EU (which is scheduled to occur by October 31, 2019, but may be further delayed). As such, this report largely addresses the EU and its institutions as they currently exist. It also briefly describes U.S.-EU political and economic relations that may be of

interest.

a very big branch icivics: Educational TV: Who Should Pay? Ronald Harry Coase, 1968

a very big branch icivics: Food Politics Marion Nestle, 2013-05-14 We all witness, in advertising and on supermarket shelves, the fierce competition for our food dollars. In this engrossing exposé, Marion Nestle goes behind the scenes to reveal how the competition really works and how it affects our health. The abundance of food in the United States--enough calories to meet the needs of every man, woman, and child twice over--has a downside. Our over-efficient food industry must do everything possible to persuade people to eat more--more food, more often, and in larger portions--no matter what it does to waistlines or well-being. Like manufacturing cigarettes or building weapons, making food is big business. Food companies in 2000 generated nearly \$900 billion in sales. They have stakeholders to please, shareholders to satisfy, and government regulations to deal with. It is nevertheless shocking to learn precisely how food companies lobby officials, co-opt experts, and expand sales by marketing to children, members of minority groups, and people in developing countries. We learn that the food industry plays politics as well as or better than other industries, not least because so much of its activity takes place outside the public view. Editor of the 1988 Surgeon General's Report on Nutrition and Health, Nestle is uniquely qualified to lead us through the maze of food industry interests and influences. She vividly illustrates food politics in action: watered-down government dietary advice, schools pushing soft drinks, diet supplements promoted as if they were First Amendment rights. When it comes to the mass production and consumption of food, strategic decisions are driven by economics--not science, not common sense, and certainly not health. No wonder most of us are thoroughly confused about what to eat to stay healthy. An accessible and balanced account, Food Politics will forever change the way we respond to food industry marketing practices. By explaining how much the food industry influences government nutrition policies and how cleverly it links its interests to those of nutrition experts, this path-breaking book helps us understand more clearly than ever before what we eat and why.

a very big branch icivics: The Best of the Rejection Collection Matthew Diffie, 2011-11-04

It's the best of the worst: 293 of the funniest cartoons rejected by The New Yorker but luckily for us, now in paperback and available to enjoy. The Rejection Collection brings together some of The New Yorker's brightest talents--Roz Chast, Gahan Wilson, Sam Gross, Jack Zeigler, David Sipress, and more--and reveals their other side. Their dark side. Their juvenile side. Their sick side. Their naughty side. Their outrageous side. And what a treat. Ventriloquist dummy cartoons. Operating room cartoons. Bring your daughter to work day cartoons (the stripper, the prison guard on death row). Lots of couples in bed, quite a few coffins, wise-cracking animals--an obsessive's plumbing of the weird, the scary, the off-the-wall, and done so without restraint. Every week The New Yorker receives 500 cartoon submissions, and rejects a great majority--mostly, of course, for not being funny enough. There's no question why these were rejected, and it's not for lack of laughs. One can almost hear Eustace Tilley sniffing, We are not amused.

a very big branch icivics: A Different Democracy Steven L. Taylor, Matthew S. Shugart,

Arend Lijphart, Bernard Grofman, 2014-10-28 Four distinguished scholars in political science analyze American democracy from a comparative point of view, exploring how the U.S. political system differs from that of thirty other democracies and what those differences ultimately mean for democratic performance. This essential text approaches the following institutions from a political engineering point of view: constitutions, electoral systems, and political parties, as well as legislative, executive, and judicial power. The text looks at democracies from around the world over a two-decade time frame. The result is not only a fresh view of the much-discussed theme of American exceptionalism but also an innovative approach to comparative politics that treats the United States as but one case among many. An ideal textbook for both American and comparative politics courses.

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Cycles Intervention provides functional targets for specific phonemes and patterns based on Hudson & Paden, 1991 cycles approach.

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