

ACTIVITY: Matching Sets

Fundamental Principles of Government

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Print this activity single-sided**
2. Give each student (or group of students) one card from each matching set. Each card either has the principle, the definition, or an example of the principle on it.
3. Students should walk around the room trying find the other two to complete their matching set. Have them hold their card facing outward so that other students can view it.
4. Once a set is found, students should raise their hands to call the teacher over. Teachers should check to ensure that the three cards are a correct matching set.
5. If the set is incorrect, have the students continue their search. If it is correct, have the matching set sit down together. Continue until all the sets have been matched.
6. Collect all the cards, shuffle and pass out again. This activity can be done with different variations and challenges:
 - a. TIME LIMIT students try to match all sets within a given time limit.
 - b. BEAT THE TIME: use a stopwatch to time the first attempt. The goal of each subsequent attempt is to match all sets faster.
 - c. NO TALKING challenge: students may not talk as they attempt to find the matching sets.

Matching Sets Activity - Answer Key

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Definition: A political system that restricts the government's power through laws and constitutions **Example:** The government cannot take a person's land or property without due process

REPUBLIC

Definition: A system of government in which the people elect public office holders to make laws and conduct government on the people's behalf **Example:** Voters in North Carolina elect representatives to the General Assembly to represent them

FEDERALISM

Definition: A system that combines a central national government with state and local governments, dividing their powers between them **Example:** Only the federal government can print money. Each state is responsible for issuing drivers' licenses.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Definition: A system that allows each branch of government to limit the power of the other branches **Example:** The president in the executive branch can veto a law, but the legislative branch can override that veto with enough votes

SEPARATION OF POWERS

Definition: The division of governmental power between the three branches of government **Example:** The legislative branch makes the laws. The executive branch enforces the laws. The judicial branch interprets the laws.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

Definition: The principle that a government, its leaders and laws are created and sustained by the consent of its people **Example:** If the people of North Carolina vote against a proposed amendment to the state constitution, the proposed change will not be made

DEMOCRACY

Definition: A system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or by their representatives **Example:** The people of North Carolina vote to elect a governor every four years

RULE OF LAW

Definition: Everyone, including government officials must follow the law **Example:** If an elected official commits a crime, they do not receive special treatment but are subject to the same penalties as regular citizens

BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

Definition: A legislative body made up of two chambers or houses **Example:** The North Carolina General Assembly has two chambers – the Senate and the House of Representatives

NOTE: Keep in mind that a few examples listed above may work for more than one principle (i.e. Popular Sovereignty and Democracy)

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CONSTITUTION

Definition: A set of rules that guides how a country, state, or other political organization works.

Example: The North Carolina Constitution requires that there be a separation of powers within government

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