



Florida Courts Scavenger Hunt

Benchmarks:

SS.7.C.3.13 Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.

SS.7.C.3.11 Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of the courts at the state and federal levels.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will compare the structure of the United States and Florida constitutions.
- Students will distinguish between a constitution and a statute.
- Students will compare the organization and function of various courts in Florida
- Students will identify the qualifications and duties of judges.

Content Focus: constitution, statutes, jurisdiction, judicial qualifications and duties, county courts, circuit courts, district courts of appeal, supreme court, judicial qualifications commission, judicial retention, mandatory retirement age.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Florida Courts Scavenger Hunt Power Point
- Computer
- Projector
- Handout to record answers
- Copies of Article V of the Florida Constitution

Lesson Preparation

- Review the Power Point.
- Students should do the scavenger hunt in pairs or groups. Decide how you will organize your class and whether you want them to simply answer the questions or whether you want to make it a competition between groups.
- Distribute copies of the Florida Constitution or at least Article V.
- Make copies of handouts.

Lesson Overview

Discuss slides 2-5 with students. Focus on comparing the Florida Constitution to the U.S. Constitution (age, basic structure and provisions, ways to amend each). Compare a constitution and a statute.

Divide class in small groups according to plan. Each student may have a handout, but the group should select an official recorder who will give the final answer for the group in writing when requested. Continue the scavenger hunt portion of the PowerPoint starting with slide 6. Students may look up answers in Article V, but set a time limit for each question to ensure that the activity is completed. After each question, remember to go back to the map for the next category. In addition to providing the answer to the question, students must cite the provision in the Constitution which

Debrief by reviewing questions. Emphasize any that seemed very difficult for students.

Handout for Florida Courts Scavenger Hunt

Record your answers to each question on this paper.



1. The Florida Constitution _____

2. Judicial duties _____

3. Judicial Salaries _____

4. The Courts _____

5. Retirement _____

6. Discipline (Judicial Behavior) _____

7. Jurisdiction _____

8. Supreme Court Justices _____

9. Qualifications of Judges _____

Final Exam 1 _____

Final Exam 2 _____