

Demo: Civics Alive Foundations and Functions

Unit 2, Section 1-5, Pages 30 – 53 Comparing Forms of Government 8th Grade – Summary

Objectives states on the Lesson Opener pages 30-33 are:

1. Analyze the advantages of the United States' constitutional republic over other forms of government in safeguarding liberty, freedom and a representative government. **The lesson does not meet this objective. In fact, the term United States' constitutional republic is used only once after categorizing the United States as Presidential Democracy. See Section 3, page 42-47**

“Presidential Democracy: Rule by Representatives of the People The United States and most countries in Latin America are presidential democracies. Most, including the United States, are constitutional republics. This means that voters choose a president to lead the government as the head of the executive branch. Voters also elect lawmakers to represent them in a national legislature. Both the president and the legislators serve fixed terms that begin and end on specific dates”.

“Because presidents are elected directly by the people, they may be more responsive to the public than to their party”. **US Presidents are elected by the electoral college, not the popular vote.**

2. Explain the advantages of a federal system of government over other systems in balancing local sovereignty with national unity and protecting against authoritarianism. **The lesson does not meet this objective. It gives one advantage and includes Russia as a federal system that protects against authoritarianism. See Section 4 page 48-49.**

“A federal system of government, or federalism, is most likely to be used in large countries with diverse populations, such as the United States, Russia, India, and Brazil. The main advantage of such a system is the flexibility it gives regional governments in meeting the needs of different language groups, ethnic groups, and regional interests. For example, the regions of Switzerland, known as cantons, were historically divided by religion”.

3. Analyze the advantages of capitalism and the free market in the United States over government-controlled economic systems (e.g., socialism and communism) in regard to economic freedom and raising the standard of living for citizens. **This lesson does not meet this objective or comply with Arizona Standards. (See supporting document)**

4. Examine the Holocaust as the planned and systematic state-sponsored persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. This lesson does not meet this objective. This is the only mention of the holocaust in the entire lesson. See page 39-41.

“Once in power, Adolf Hitler began arresting and killing those he deemed “undesirable.” In addition to Jewish people, Hitler targeted political opponents, people who were ethnically Polish, disabled people, and Roma. (Roma are an ethnic minority group whose members traditionally did not settle in one place.) Under Hitler’s rule, the Nazis planned and systematically murdered about one-quarter of the European Roma population and two-thirds of European Jews. The murder of both groups is considered genocide. The systematic killing of European Jews during World War II is known as the Holocaust.”