



Grades 2-7

American Government and the Election Process

Unit Study



A Journey Through Learning
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Welcome

Thank you for purchasing from A Journey Through Learning. We hope that you enjoy our unit study entitled American Government and the Election Process. Getting started is easy.

First, take the time to just browse through the pages to familiarize yourself with the layout. In this book, you will find several topics about America and the election process.

Each topic has an:

- * information page
- * activity page
- * vocabulary study

Information Page

Each of the topics has an information page to read to your child. You will notice that some of the words in the information pages are underlined.

Vocabulary Study

The underlined words are vocabulary words. Read each sentence that contains the vocabulary word very carefully. It is important that your child hear the vocabulary words in context. Ask your child if he/she can get the meaning of the word from listening to the sentence it is contained in. Next, turn to the vocabulary pages in the back of the book. Here you will find an area for your child to write down the actual definition of each vocabulary word. Vocabulary study increases your child's knowledge of the topic!

Activity Page

When your study of the topic is complete, it is time to go on to the activity that correlates with the topic. Some of these activities are more for fun while others are more challenging. All of them will enrich your child's understanding and knowledge of each topic.

We hope you and your child are blessed by this study! Please check our website frequently for new products!

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Thanks again,
Paula Winget
Nancy Fileccia

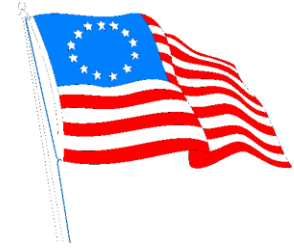


America's Early Years
The Constitution
Our Nation
Rights of Citizens
The Legislative Branch
The Executive Branch
The Judicial Branch
Voting
How to Cast a Vote
Campaign Buttons
How to Elect a President
Job Description of the President
Oaths of Office
How Laws are Passed
Political Parties
Political symbols
Electoral College
Election Day



America's Early Years

In 1776, Britain's American colonies broke from their mother country, England, and began to gain recognition as the new nation of the United States of America. The colonists formed what would come to be known as the thirteen colonies.



The 19th century was a time of rapid growth in the new America. It brought with it a time of great inventions and discoveries. America doubled its size with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. The explorations of Lewis and Clark opened the doors to a whole new world to the west. With these discoveries, Americans began to journey out into new and wide open spaces. It saw the California Gold Rush, the pioneers, and the American Indians.



The original thirteen colonies

During the 19th and 20th centuries, 37 new states were added to the original 13, bringing the total number of states to 50. America was beginning to expand across the new North American continent and also acquiring a number of possessions overseas.

The two most traumatic experiences in the nation's history were the Civil War (1861-65) and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Buoyed by victories in World Wars I and II and the end of the Cold War in 1991, the US remains the world's most powerful nation state.

The Constitution

At the beginning of the new American colonies, all agreed that there had to be one set of rules that all of the colonies would follow. They also agreed that not just one person was to be in charge. In England, the king had all of the power. This is called a monarchy. The people wanted a democracy, which is a government that is run by the people.

A group of men got together and wrote out laws for the new nation. This set of rules would be called, "The Constitution of the United States". The Constitution is a document that lays out the structure and rights of the United States and its citizens. It is composed of 4,541 words. It is known as a "living document" because it can be amended or changed. It has been amended 27 times since it was written. The Constitution is organized into three parts:

- **Preamble:** Describes the purpose of the document and government.
- **Articles:** Establishes how the government is structured and how the Constitution can be changed. There are seven articles.
- **Amendments:** Changes to the Constitution; the first ten are called the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution set rules in place for the people. It said that the government had three jobs. The first job is to make laws for the people. The second job is to make sure laws are obeyed, that the army, navy and air force are running properly, and to take care of our land by making sure we have safe food, water, highways, etc. The third job has many different parts such as judging fights among people, deciding punishments for people who do not follow the laws and deciding what different laws mean. These different areas of the government are called the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial branches.

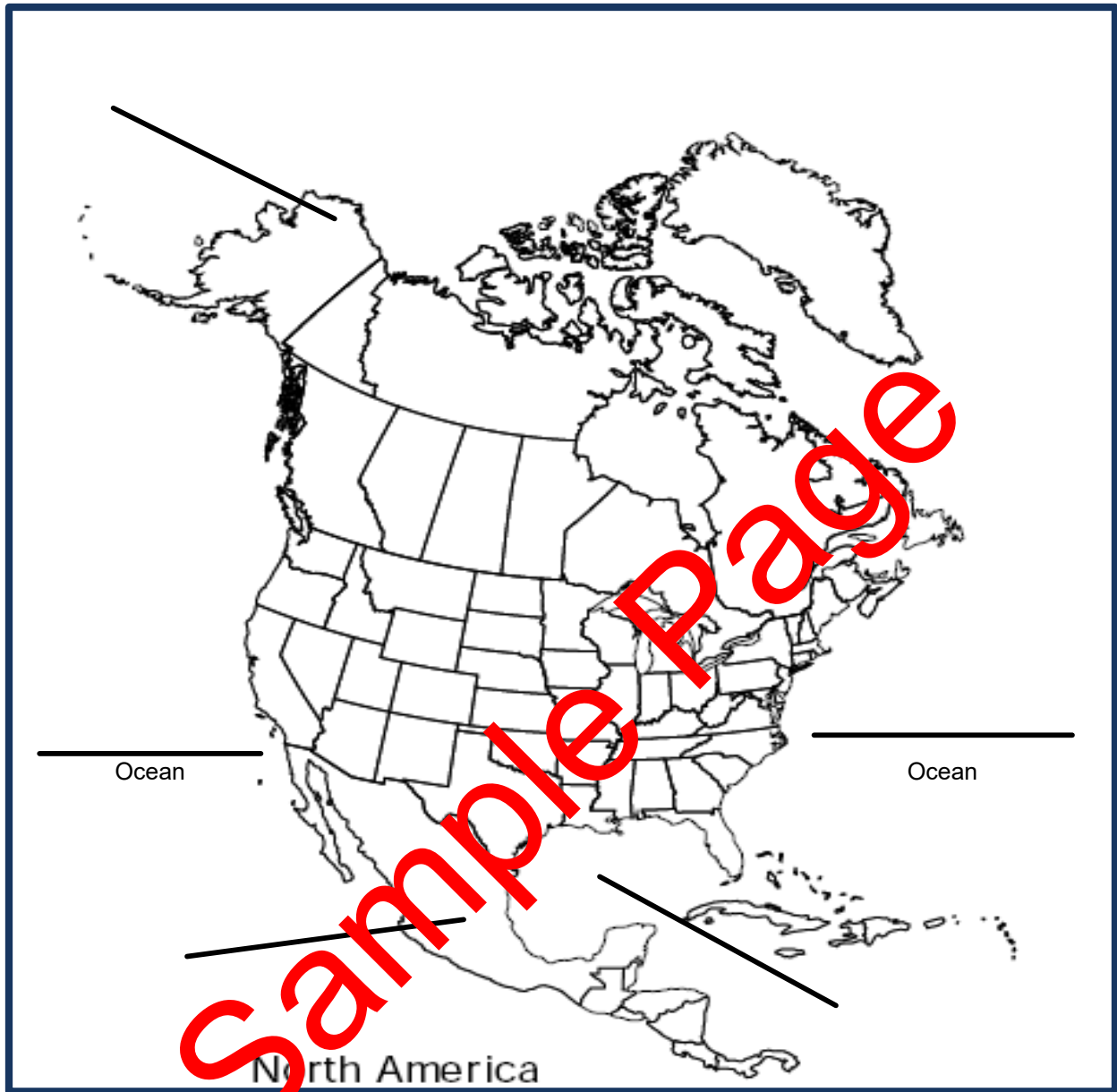
Our Nation

The United States of America is located on the continent of North America. There are 50 states in the U.S. Forty-eight of the states are connected. This is called the contiguous United States. Two of the states, Hawaii and Alaska, are not connected to the 48. Hawaii is set of island in the Pacific Ocean and Alaska is connected to Canada.

The largest state in America is Alaska and the smallest state is Rhode Island. There are 3,615,123 square miles in the United States. Canada borders the U.S. to the north, and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The Atlantic Ocean borders the east coast and the Pacific Ocean borders the west coast. The highest mountain in the U.S. is Mount McKinley in Alaska. It is 20,320 feet above sea level. The lowest point is located in Death Valley, California. The largest cities in our nation are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia. The Capital of the United States is located in Washington D.C. The motto of our country is "In God We Trust."

Sample Page

Label the parts of the United States



Word Box

Gulf of Mexico

Canada

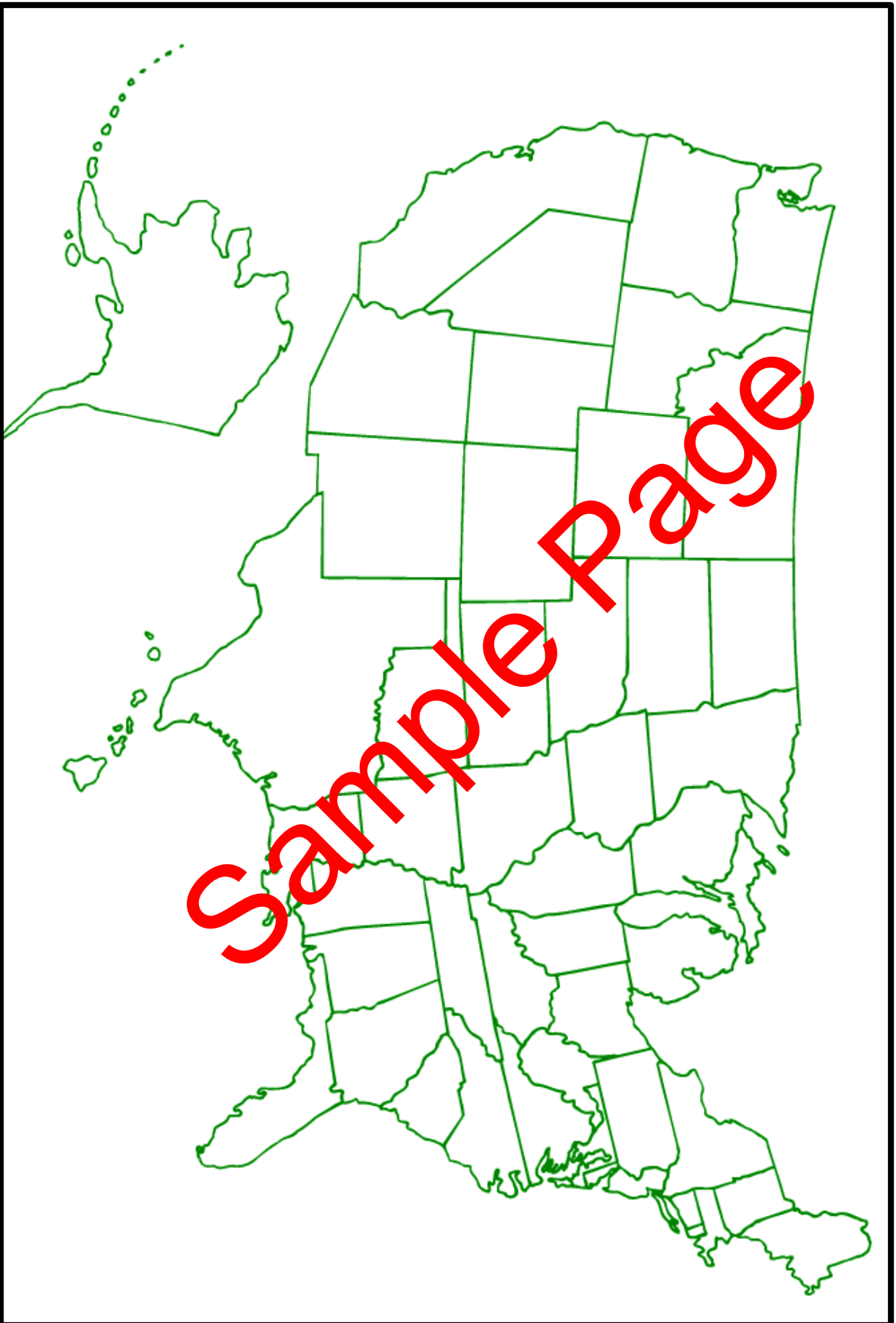
Pacific Ocean

Mexico

Atlantic Ocean

The United States

See how many of the states you can label by memory. When you are done, use an atlas to finish labeling the map of the United States. Use the list of the states to help you.



Label the states on the map. Place a check mark by them as you find them.

Alabama _____
Alaska _____
Arizona _____
Arkansas _____
California _____
Colorado _____
Connecticut _____
Delaware _____
Florida _____
Georgia _____
Hawaii _____
Idaho _____

Illinois _____
Indiana _____
Iowa _____
Kansas _____
Kentucky _____
Louisiana _____
Maine _____
Maryland _____
Massachusetts _____
Michigan _____
Minnesota _____
Mississippi _____



Missouri _____
Montana _____
Nebraska _____
Nevada _____
New Hampshire _____
New Jersey _____
New Mexico _____
New York _____
North Carolina _____
North Dakota _____
Ohio _____
Oklahoma _____
Oregon _____

Pennsylvania _____
Rhode Island _____
South Carolina _____
South Dakota _____
Tennessee _____
Texas _____
Utah _____
Vermont _____
Virginia _____
Washington _____
West Virginia _____
Wisconsin _____
Wyoming _____

Sample Page