

Lesson Plan – *Standard 12 – Identify and explain the major responsibilities of the legislative (Article 4), executive (Article 5), and judicial branches (Article 7) of state government as written in the Indiana Constitution.*

Time: 90 minutes

Learning Objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to identify the checks and balances within the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches; and be able to identify and summarize the various powers of each Indiana branch.

Materials:

- Reading titled, “**Standard 12 - Reading - Structure and Function of the Indiana State Government**”

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask students to explain why checks and balances are important in a republican form of government.
- Discuss until the class understands that checks and balances keep any one governmental branch from becoming too powerful.

Reading and Formative Assessment (75 minutes)

- Have the students read the first section called “**Structure and Function of the Indiana State Government: An Overview.**”
- Use the graphic to fill out the **Check and Balances Summary** that summarizes each check between the branches.

Name: _____

Structure and Function of the Indiana State Government: An Overview

The 1816 Constitution created the basic structure of the Indiana government. The structure of state government is set in the original constitution. Indiana state government has three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch has its own powers and responsibilities. The branches are designed to check and balance each other.

Check and Balances Summary

| Which Branch Checks? | Which Branch Checked? | Check(s) |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Legislative | Executive | |
| Legislative | Judicial | |
| Executive | Legislative | |
| Executive | Judicial | |
| Judicial | Executive | |
| Judicial | Legislative | |

- Once the **Check and Balances Summary** is complete, read each of the following sections and **highlight** key information and powers: “**Indiana Constitution Article 4 – Legislative Branch**”, “**Indiana Constitution Article 5 - Executive Branch**”, and “**Indiana Constitution Article 7 - Judicial Branch**”.
- Once finished, students will begin to complete the graphic organizer at the end of the reading. Students should work in a small group of 3 to 4 to complete the graphic organizer.

| Legislative Branch | Executive Branch | Judicial Branch |
|--|--|--|
| 1. How does the branch originate? | 1. How does the branch originate? | 1. How does the branch originate? |
| 2. | 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. | 5. |
| 6. How does the branch check the other branches? | 6. How does the branch check the other branches? | 6. How does the branch check the other branches? |
| 7. | 7. | 7. |
| 8. | 8. | 8. |
| 9. | 9. | 9. |
| 10. | 10. | 10. |

Name: _____