

# Democracy for Brownies



**RICHARD NIXON**  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

## California Educational Standards

The content of Girl Scout national proficiency badges have been correlated by grade level to national and state learning objectives.

Visit [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org) for more information on how Girl Scout Badgework supports California's educational standards.

## Welcome to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, Girl Scout Brownie!

To earn your Democracy for Brownies badge today, you will need to complete the five activities listed on this worksheet with the help of an adult. Good luck and have fun!

### Activities

1. Find out about local government.
2. Find out about state government.
3. Find out about our country's legislative branch.
4. Find out about our country's executive branch.
5. Find out about our country's judicial branch.

### Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I will know the three branches of government, and some of the things they are responsible for.



## Activity 1: Find out about local government

The people who make the rules in your city or town are called the local government. Even the smallest town has one! Learn more about your local government in this step.

### Talk to an expert!

A docent is a member of your community who acts as a guide, usually as a volunteer. These volunteers are subject matter experts who share their knowledge with visitors in history museums, art galleries, and zoos. The Nixon Library has a large docent guild that serves our community by sharing their expertise in the life and times of Richard Nixon. There are docents located throughout the museum. Please feel free to ask them questions!

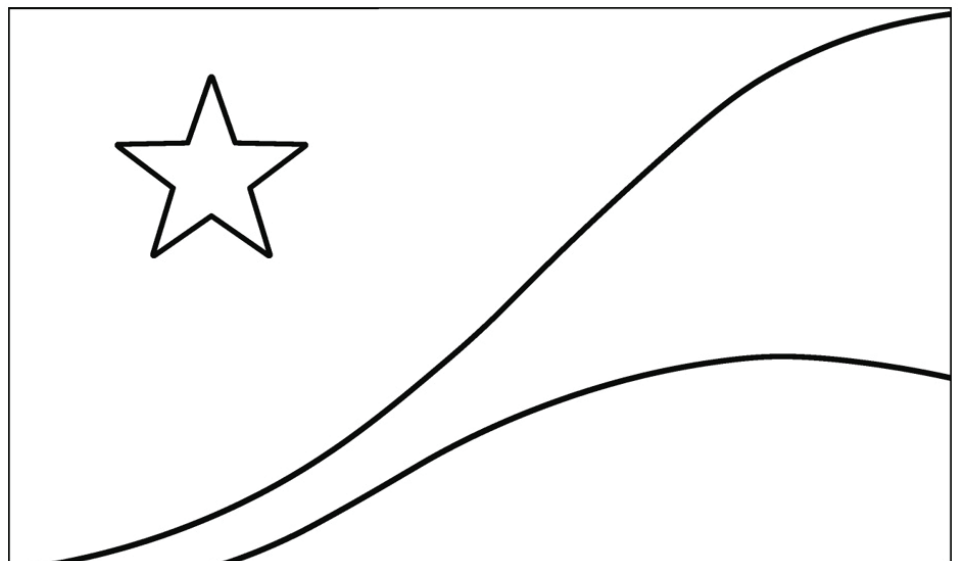
Richard Nixon was born in Yorba Linda, California in the house located on the grounds of the Nixon Library. Take time to visit the home and ask the docent questions about Richard Nixon's early life, and local government at that time.

## Town Hall Meetings

The purpose of town hall meetings is for government officials to hear the community's views on public issues. People attending the meeting have the chance to present ideas, voice their opinions, and ask questions. Meetings don't necessarily take place in a town hall, they may be held at the local library or a school building.

### Optional Coloring Activity!

The city of Yorba Linda is located in northeastern Orange County and has its own flag. Do a little detective work and find the colors of the flag to color in the image at a later time.



## Activity 2: Find out about state government

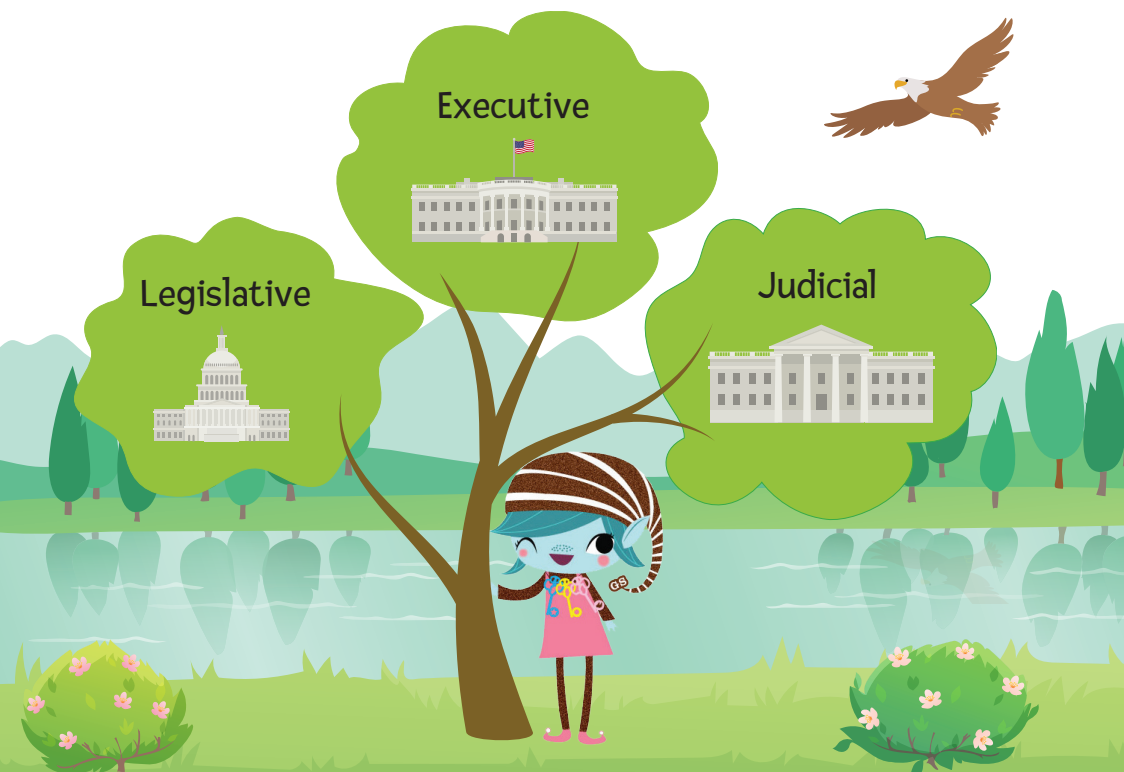
California is one out of 50 states in the United States of America. Just like the federal government, California has a state constitution and three branches of government - like parts of a tree. Start by reading about the three parts on this page!

- The State Assembly and Senate make up the Legislative Branch.
- The Governor makes up the Executive Branch.
- The Judicial Branch includes all of the state courts.

Richard Nixon served as a United States Representative and Senator from California, making sure that the needs of the people of California were heard all the way in Washington, DC! Go through the museum gallery to learn about President Nixon's time as a Representative and a Senator.

### What would you say?

If you were to write a letter to our state governor, what would you like to say? Do you have ideas to share? How would you like to make the community better? Discuss what you would write with your guide.

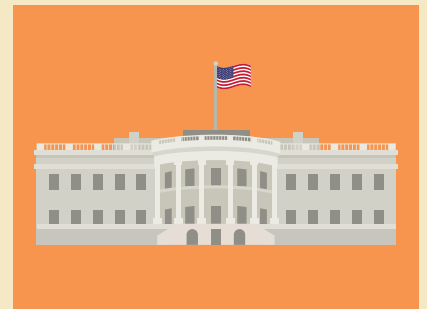


## Three Branches of Government

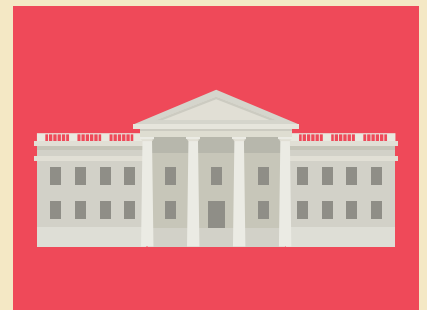
The United States federal government is divided into three equal parts to make sure power is equally shared, so no one part ever has more power than another. These parts are called the branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each state models this same structure.



The legislative branch makes laws.

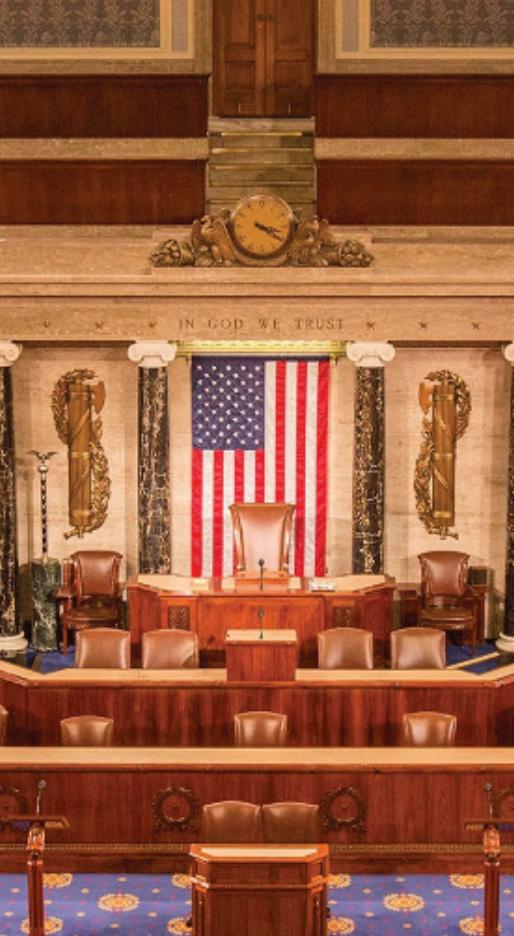


The executive branch makes sure the law is carried out.



The judicial branch decides what the law means if there are questions.





## Activity 3: Find out about our country's legislative branch

Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government. To legislate means to make laws. There are two parts of Congress: The House of Representatives and the Senate.

Congress meets in the United States Capitol. The House of Representatives meets on one side of the building, and the Senate on the other.

The House of Representatives and the Senate each have their own responsibilities. Approval by both houses is needed to pass bills. Once this is done, the President can either pass the bill into law or veto (reject) it. Congress can decide to override the veto and pass the law without his signature.

Locate the models in the museum that show the chambers of Congress.

### The Senate

**Responsibilities:**  
The Senate can approve treaties, presidential appointees, and impeachment trials, and confirm judges.

**Qualifications:** 30 years old, United States Citizen for nine years, live in the state you represent, 6-year term.

### The House of Representatives

**Responsibilities:** The House of Representatives is responsible for revenue (taxes, making coins & paper money, tariffs, and trade), raising and maintaining our military, the Post Office, patents, declaring war, articles of impeachment, and proposing constitutional amendments.

**Qualifications:** 25 years old, United States Citizen for seven years, live in the state you represent, 2-year term.

## House of Representatives

There are 435 total Representatives in the House. Each state has a different number of representatives depending on their total population. States with more people get more representatives.

## Senate

The Senate has 100 members. Each state has two Senators.



# What is an archive?



**A** is for  
Archives

An archive contains a collection of materials that document history.

**R** is for  
Records

Records are types of historical materials that make up the archive and can be in many forms.

**C** is for  
Conservation

A conservator stabilizes archival collections for future generations.

**H** is for  
History

History is the study of our past that connects us to the present.

**I** is for  
Investigating

Investigating is learning with curiosity. There's a lot to investigate at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.

**V** is for  
Valuable

Documents and objects have historical value. They help us to verify and preserve our history.

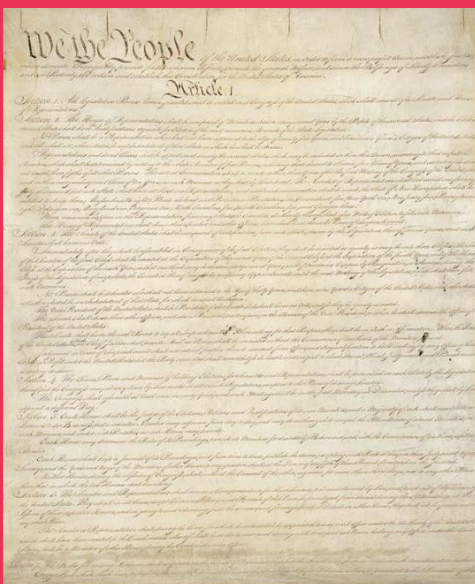
**E** is for  
Everyone

There's something for everyone to do at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.



The National Archives and Records Administration preserves the records of the United States Government and makes them available to the public. At the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, the National Archives maintains the records and artifacts from President Richard Nixon's term in office.





## The Constitution

The Constitution is one of the most important documents in United States history. It was written to explain the principles of our democracy. It has seven sections called articles. When it was signed by our founding fathers in 1787, it became official. This document is referred to as a “living document” because when it was written, it was meant to be amended, or changed to make it fairer or more up-to-date. The writers created a way to make amendments. There have been 27 amendments since it was first written.

You can visit a copy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the museum. The Bill of Rights includes the first ten amendments.



## Activity 4: Find out about our country's executive branch

The head of the executive branch of government is the president. Starting at age 18, American citizens can vote for president every four years.

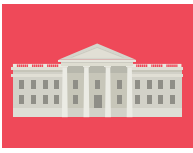
Richard Milhous Nixon was the 37th President of the United States, serving from 1969 to 1974. He also served as a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate. He served as California Congressman in the United States House of Representatives and a California Senator in the United States Senate. Explore the section of the museum that tells the story of Richard Nixon's time in office as a Congressman, and Senator, and Vice President. Discuss what you learn with your troop!



## Visit the Oval Office!

The President of the United States lives in the White House. The White House is located in our nation's capital, Washington DC. The portion of the White House where the President works is called the West Wing and inside the West Wing is the Oval Office.

The Oval Office is where the President conducts official business. Visit the Oval Office replica in the museum. What official business would you conduct on your first day in office?



## Activity 5: Find out about our country's judicial branch

The judicial branch of the government is made up of courts and judges. Learn more about the judicial branch in this activity.

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonal) and can overlap each other.

Z W D E C I S I O N I N P G R  
C A Q R E J U D I C I A L X K  
Y N J Z N L T P D T E B T E P  
J F V T I R O B E X O E C S O  
O A P P O I N T X G I Q Z Y W  
N J R V E E W Z E N R K L G W  
T Y Y X I J D T W C A J V A C  
L C J P C Z U O X R I V L L F  
Z B I O H Y R Q G G A T O S H  
G V U D A B F E O Z A S S W K  
T R E E R F O G J A P B L U C  
T P K F Z E C D B V H Q I X J  
S X I E I I V U O P I N I O N  
G L S G K L E J D V H G Y G F  
N L A X D G I R U Z Y Y W O O

### Word Bank

- |            |              |             |              |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. opinion | 2. robe      | 3. verdict  | 4. justice   |
| 5. law     | 6. life      | 7. appoint  | 8. court     |
| 9. judge   | 10. judicial | 11. brownie | 12. decision |

## The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court, which is sometimes called “The Highest Court in the Land,” is made up of nine people called justices.

For a long time, these justices were all men. That changed in 1981, when the first woman was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan. Her name was Sandra Day O'Connor, and you have something in common with her. She was a Girl Scout too!



Like Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, First Lady Pat Nixon was a supporter of the Girl Scouts of America. Her support began well before her time in the White House. She served as the troop leader for her daughters, Julie and Tricia. While in the White House, she was named the Honorary National President of the Girl Scouts of America, and welcomed many Girl Scouts into the White House.



President Richard Nixon developed the habit of writing out his thoughts on legal pads. These yellow notepads became a hallmark of Richard Nixon's way of working and thinking. President Nixon was able to focus his thinking through writing. Write out your thoughts below!

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Telling my classmates about the three branches of government.

- 

I'm inspired to:

- 

- 



To schedule a self-guided education tour to complete the worksheet or to ask a question, please contact us by email at [NixonEducation@nara.gov](mailto:NixonEducation@nara.gov) or by phone at 714-983-9120.