

# Chapter Three

## Social Studies Study Guide

### Vocabulary:

*Executive Branch:* The branch in charge of carrying out laws written by Congress

*Legislative Branch:* The branch that makes laws

*Judicial Branch:* The branch that makes sure laws agree with the Constitution

*Symbol:* Images, designs, or things that stand for ideas (For example: The stars on the American flag symbolize today's 50 states and the stripes symbolize the original 13 states).

*Petition:* A formal request

*Patriotism:* Pride and support of someone's nation, people, and government - We show our patriotism on Veterans Day and Memorial Day when we honor soldiers who have served our country. We celebrate American independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Bill of Rights:* The first 10 amendments, or changes, to the Constitution

*Checks and Balances:* The process by which no branch of government becomes too powerful

### Key Points:

- ◆ The main goal of the U.S. government is to serve and protect its citizens.
- ◆ The U.S. has three levels of government: local, state, and country.
- ◆ Citizens vote for the president in a democracy every four years in an election.
- ◆ Each state elects two senators to the Senate.
- ◆ The number of representatives each state elects to the House of Representatives depends on the population of the state.
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence. The Founding Fathers believed that everyone is born with basic rights that no person or government can take away.
- ◆ The president can veto laws. However, Congress can cancel the president's veto if 2/3 of Congress votes for the law.
- ◆ Supreme Court Justices are not elected. They are selected by the president and approved by the Senate.
- ◆ The U.S. military protects us from enemies and other threats.
- ◆ Local taxes are used to pay for roads, schools, the police, and courts.