



2018-2019

# **We the People**

## **Middle School Questions**

for the Simulated Congressional Hearing

### **Unit 1**

How can governments be designed to prevent abuses of power?

- What is a constitution and what role does it play in preventing abuses of power in a constitutional government?
- What Enlightenment ideas did the Founders consider when developing the U.S. Constitution?

### **Unit 2**

What ideas did the colonists in America use to create their governments?

- What influence did documents like Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights have on early governments in the Americas?
- How were the ideas from Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights reflected in the Declaration of Independence?

### **Unit 3**

What are some of the powers of the three branches of government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution?

- How does the U.S. Constitution limit the powers of each branch of government?
- How do the branches of government check each other?
- Why are the separation of powers and checks and balances important in our constitutional design?



2018-2019

# We the People

## Middle School Questions

for the Simulated Congressional Hearing

### Unit 4

In the case of *Marbury v. Madison*, the Supreme Court established its power of judicial review. How was judicial review established in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*?

- What is judicial review and how does it apply to laws passed by the state and federal government? How does judicial review apply to the executive branch?
- How does the power of judicial review protect the rights of the people?

### Unit 5

How has the right to vote expanded since the adoption of the U.S. Constitution?

- What actions did individuals and groups take to expand the right to vote in the United States? What constitutional rights did they exercise?
- How have the voting amendments to the U.S. Constitution affected participation in the political process?
- What other measures were taken by Congress that expanded the right to vote in the United States?

### Unit 6

What powers does the U.S. Constitution give the national government to deal with other countries?

- What are some of the ways the United States interacts with other nations of the world?
- What are some examples of major international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental? What is the role of these organizations in international affairs?