

Teacher Notes



The Supreme Court

Activity 1 The Court and the Constitution

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** Social Studies
- ◆ **Subject Area:** American Government
- ◆ **Category:** The Judicial Branch
- ◆ **Topic:** The Supreme Court
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 9 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** Students should be familiar with the three branches of the United States government and the United States Constitution.
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 50 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ StudyCards™ and NoteFolio™ Applications
- ◆ TI Connectivity cable or TI-Navigator™ System
- ◆ Computer with Internet access and a connection to a large screen for classroom display
- ◆ Resource File: **USSUPREM.8xv**, **SCQUEST.8xv**
- ◆ Student Work Sheet: **Supreme Court Questions** (optional)

Activity Overview

The students will examine the U. S. Constitution in order to explain the role of the Supreme Court in the United States. Students will be provided with a vocabulary list that will help them understand terms throughout this lesson. Students will record their findings on the TI-83 Plus. When a piece of work is completed, the students will send it to the teacher's computer for evaluation. (This can be done with a physical link using the TI Connectivity cable, or student files can be collected using the TI-Navigator™ System.

Tip

Allow students to work in pairs or small groups in an Internet search.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Be sure that each student's TI-83 Plus device has the StudyCards™ and NoteFolio™ applications installed.

Warm-up Activity

Begin the lesson by reviewing the branches of the United States government. When you reach the Judicial Branch, access the Web site: <http://oyez.org/tour/tour>. Take the students on a virtual tour of the Supreme Court to give them the opportunity to see the Court as a physical place with real individuals who make decisions with historical implications.

During the Activity

Decide if you will have the students work in pairs or small groups, and divide the class according to this decision. Distribute the StudyCards™ file, **USSUPREM.8xv**, and the NoteFolio™ file, **SCQUEST.8xv** to the students.

Instruct the students to review the StudyCards™ file. It contains the vocabulary list for this lesson. Students should review it and then informally quiz their partner or team members on the terms and definitions.

When the students are comfortable with the terms in the list, instruct them to open the NoteFolio™ file and answer the questions using the TI External Keyboard. Monitor student progress.

After the Activity

When the students have completed the question set, lead a class discussion that includes the questions and provides the correct answers. Students should revise the answers in their files so that they have the correct answers recorded. Have the students delete any old files if their device has limited memory space so that they can keep the completed NoteFolio™ file as a study aid and review tool.

Student Work Sheet
Supreme Court Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

The following questions are a duplication of those found in the NoteFolio™ file, **SCQUEST.8xv**.

1. What is the Supreme Court, and what part of the U. S. Constitution defines it?
2. How many justices sit on the Court?
3. How are they chosen?
4. How long do they serve the Court?
5. Who are the current justices and the Chief Justice?
6. What is the term of the Court?
7. When are decisions made public?
8. What is the jurisdiction of the Court?
9. How does the Court receive cases? How is it determined what cases will be heard?