

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Word Wall Mystery

Cross off the images you use as an answer. Write the answer in the space provided.

CASE			
SUSPECTS		LOCATION	
EVIDENCE			

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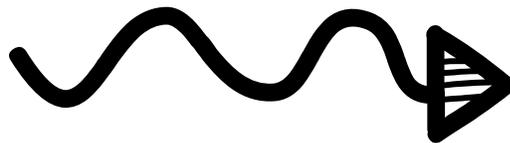
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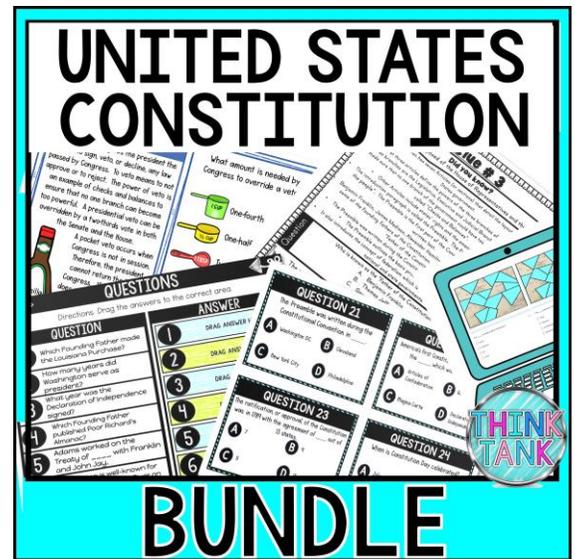
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The U.S. Constitution bundle has everything you need to cover your Civics and Government unit from the Founding Fathers to the Bill of Rights. This bundle includes 17 unique activities to keep your students engaged from beginning to end.

OVERVIEW

Students become word detectives and solve a mystery with this **Branches of Government** INTERACTIVE WORD WALL – Scavenger Hunt activity. You can set this up as a gallery walk, scavenger hunt, or word wall. Students will read each vocabulary card several times to match the vocabulary words to their definition and fill in the blanks... all while finding clues to solve the case! **Great addition to your U.S. Constitution unit.**

Vocabulary words include: Judicial Branch, Supreme Court, Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, Congress, Senate, House of Representatives, President, Veto, Bill, Appointment, Cabinet, Chief Justice, Judicial Review, Jury, President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House, Vice President, Ratify, Impeach, Checks and Balances, Federalism, Commander-in-Chief, Senator, Representative, Amendment, Electoral College, Bicameral, Separation of Powers, Unconstitutional

Don't just hang some words on the wall, INTERACT with them! Transform your word wall into an interactive reference tool that students engage with. Don't let it become just a decoration!

Students will work individually (or in pairs) and race to see who can solve the case first! A friendly competition always increases engagement.

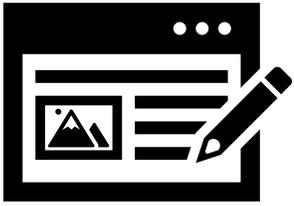
Help your students remember these essential vocabulary terms with this interactive word wall, while decorating your classroom at the same time! Student-friendly definitions with are displayed on each of the 31 word posters/vocab cards.

This activity can be used for individual work, partner activities, anticipatory sets, unit review, sub plans, extension activities, early-finishers, or just for fun the day before break.

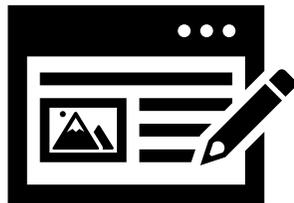
What's Included?

- ✓ 31 Word Wall Vocab Cards
- ✓ 27 Questions
- ✓ Student Case File Recording Sheet
- ✓ Student Directions
- ✓ Teacher Directions
- ✓ Teacher Answer Key
- ✓ Early Finisher Activity
- ✓ Other ways to use your word wall

TEACHER DIRECTIONS



STEP 1: Print and cut out the vocab cards **IN COLOR** if possible (**pages 7-22**) and hang them around the room. If you prefer to stay seated, you can use the vocab cards as a word wall. If you prefer movement around the room, hang or hide the vocab cards all around the room like a scavenger hunt!



STEP 2: Print a Case File and Answer Recording Sheet for each student or pair of students (**pages 23-25**). You decide how you want them to work. Do you want students to work individually or with a partner?



STEP 3: Explain the rules and expectations for movement around the classroom. **DO NOT ALLOW** students to turn in their work or show you their final answers unless the fill in the blanks and words have been completed! The whole goal of this activity is to have students reading and browsing the vocab words **MULTIPLE** times looking for answers.



STEP 4: Show the “STUDENT DIRECTIONS” to the students so they understand what to do! At this time, you may also choose to go over the “optional” word graffiti directions found on **pages 26-27**. I use the word graffiti for early finishers, so be sure to have copies on hand.



STEP 5: Read “Case SC-14206” aloud to the students. This way they understand why they are doing the activity and what they are searching for. Then, let the students get to work solving the case. Allow students to start at different Vocab Cards, **the order of completion does NOT matter**. The words can be hung in any order.

STUDENT DIRECTIONS

VOCAB CARDS: Read the definition on your answer recording worksheet and find the corresponding Vocab Card. Each Vocab Card includes a word, definition, and image. The image serves as a clue to solving the case.



DEMOCRACY

A form of government in which power rests with the people.



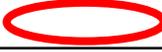
SUPREMACY CLAUSE

If a federal law and a state law conflict with one another, the federal law will take priority over the state law.

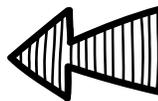


INTERACTIVE VOCABULARY

Directions: Read each definition below and find the matching vocabulary word. Next, fill in the blank with the missing word in the definition and write the VOCAB word next to the definition. Lastly, **CROSS-OFF** the image found on the vocab card on your case file sheet.

FILL IN THE BLANK	VOCAB WORD
Believed that the national government should have more power than the _____ governments.	
To give _____ or permission.	
Also known as the Legislative Branch, this article gives Congress its powers and _____.	
Any power not specifically given to the federal government by the Constitution belongs to the States and the _____.	
The relationship between the state governments and the _____ government.	
The buying and selling of goods or _____ and trade.	
Also known as the _____ Branch, this article outlines the role of the Supreme Court.	
Evidence that gives someone a reason to think that a _____ has been or is being committed.	
To approve or confirm in an _____ way.	
If a federal law and a state law conflict with one another, the federal law will take _____ over the state law.	
To _____ a high-ranking government official of a crime or misconduct while in office.	
The power or consent of the _____.	
A form of government in which power _____ with the people.	

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WORKSHEET: Read the definition, determine the missing word AND write the vocabulary word next to the definition. Each question has TWO answers (fill-in and vocab word). Then, **CROSS-OFF** your answer on the Case-File Recording Sheet using the picture in the lower left corner of the Vocab Card related to the word you chose. If you cannot find the image on your answer sheet, then you chose the wrong answer.

After all questions have been completed, you will be able to determine who the suspect is, where the suspect is hiding the mascot, and what evidence they left behind to help you capture them. Any image that has NOT been crossed off will be part of your final answer.



CASE FILE

Cross off the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

SUSPECTS					
					
LOCATION					
					
EVIDENCE					
					

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Technically, students can try to mark off all of the answer images on their final sheet and solve the case pretty quickly, without actually doing the work.

HOWEVER, in the event that they are smart enough to figure that out, please do NOT allow students to turn in their final answers to you until ALL of the worksheet is complete.

Most kids will NOT figure this out so please do not tell them! As a twist to avoid this, some of the answer images are **NOT** on their answer sheet. If they chose that image as their answer, then they got the answer wrong.

CASE SC-14206

The Elrama Eagles basketball team had a famous mascot named Rocky. Everyone loved his antics, humor, and dancing. He always got the audience pumped, on their feet, and cheering loud. Today, Rocky was nowhere to be found and the game had already started. The audience started asking questions. Finally, the Jumbo Tron announced that Rocky will not be making an appearance tonight because the mascot uniform was stolen! Police have blocked off the area, but the thief could be anywhere by now! You are a lead detective on the case. It's your job to determine:

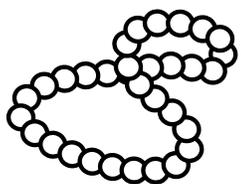
1. Who stole the mascot uniform?
2. Where did the suspect hide the mascot?
3. What evidence left at the scene ties the suspect to the crime?



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JUDICIAL BRANCH

Also known as
Article III, this
branch interprets
the laws.



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EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Also known as Article II, this branch enforces the laws.



SUPREME COURT

The highest federal court in the US, consisting of nine justices.



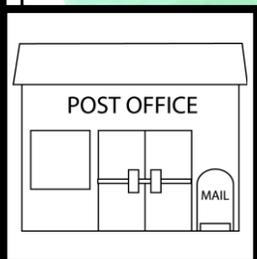
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Also known as Article I, this branch creates the laws.



FEDERALISM

The relationship between the state governments and the federal government.



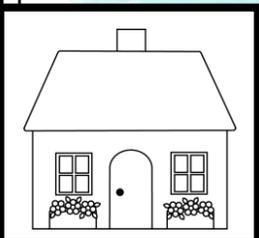
ELECTORAL COLLEGE

A body of electors chosen by the voters in each state to elect the President and Vice President.



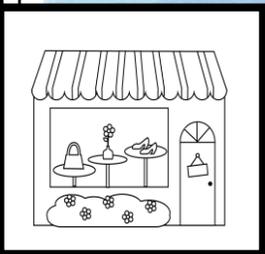
SECRETARY OF STATE

Person appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate, to serve as the chief advisor of foreign affairs.



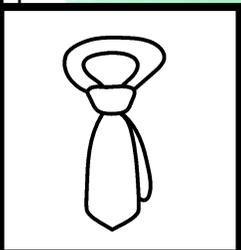
AMENDMENT

A change or addition
to the United States
Constitution.



SEPARATION OF POWERS

Powers divided
among separate
and independent
branches.



BILL

An idea for
a law.



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CONGRESS

Also known as the
Legislative Branch,
made up of the Senate
and the House of
Representatives.



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BICAMERAL

Made up of two parts, two chambers, or two houses.



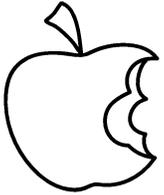
REPRESENTATIVE

A member of the House of Representatives that is elected by voters to serve a two-year term.



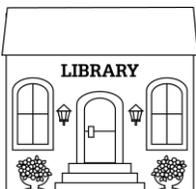
SENATOR

A member of the Senate that is elected by voters to serve a six-year term.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Head of the armed forces or military.



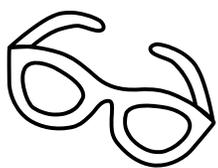
UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A violation of
the U.S. Constitution.



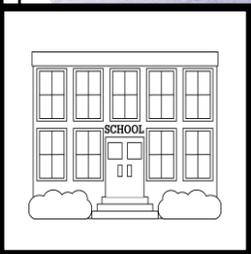
CHECKS & BALANCES

The powers of the government
are "balanced" between the
three branches to make sure
that one branch does
not become
too powerful.



VICE PRESIDENT

The person ready to take over for the President if something should happen to the President.



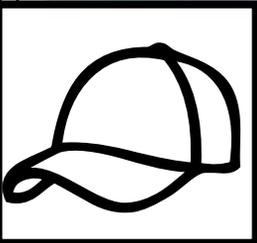
IMPEACH

To accuse a high-ranking government official of a crime or misconduct while in office.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

A person elected by the majority party to lead the House of Representatives.



PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The highest-ranking Senator of the majority party who leads the Senate in the absence of the Vice President.



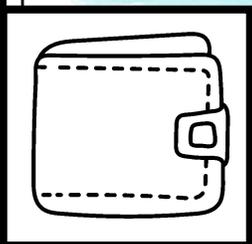
JUDICIAL REVIEW

The power of courts to decide if the acts of the Legislative and Executive Branches are constitutional.



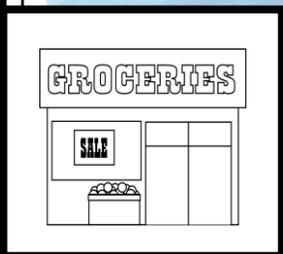
JURY

A body of people (typically twelve) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case.



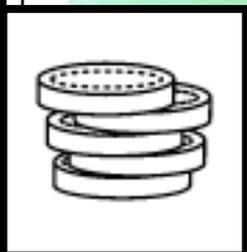
RATIFY

To approve or confirm in an official way.



CHIEF JUSTICE

The highest ranking judge of the Supreme Court.



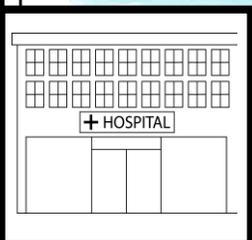
CABINET

A group of advisors to the President.



APPOINTMENT

A nomination by the President for a job or position.



PRESIDENT

Leader of the Executive Branch and is both the Head of State and the Commander-in-Chief of the US armed forces.



VETO

To deny, reject, or refuse to approve a bill.



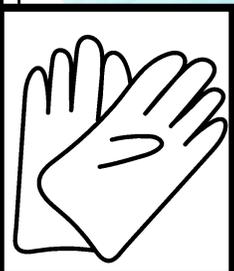
SENATE

Also known as the Upper House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has 100 members.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

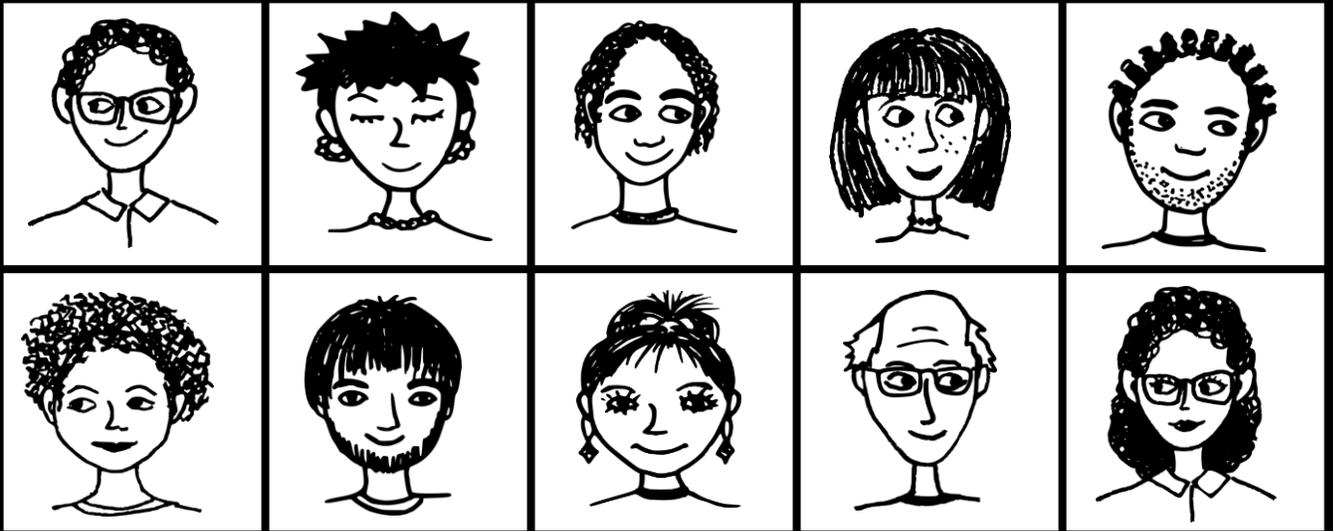
Also known as the Lower House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has 435 members.



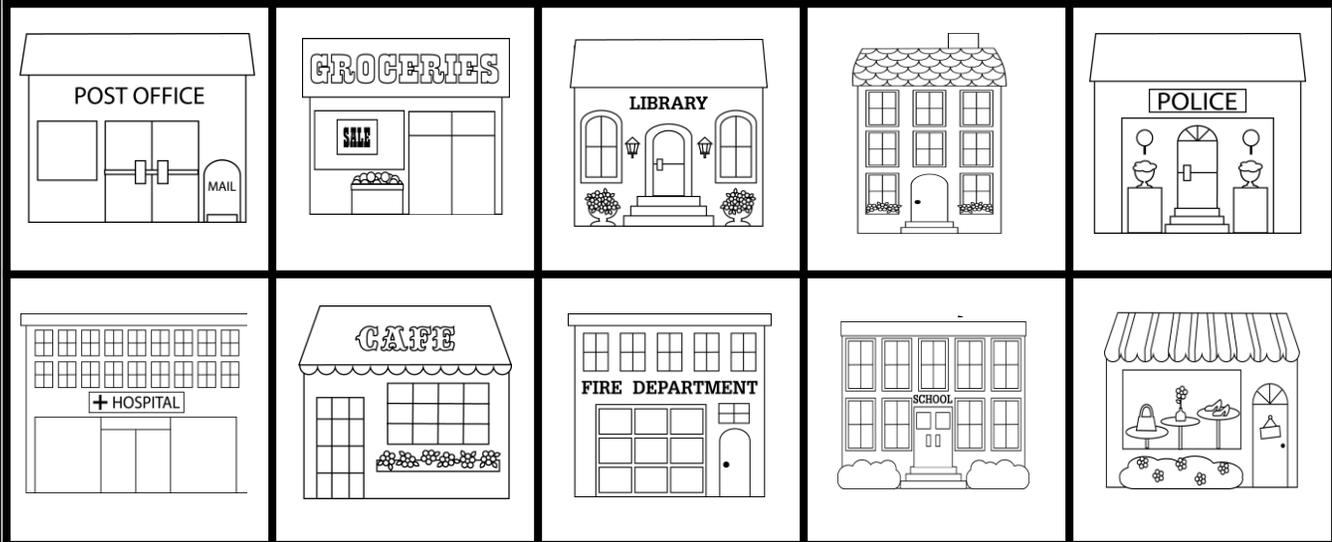
CASE FILE

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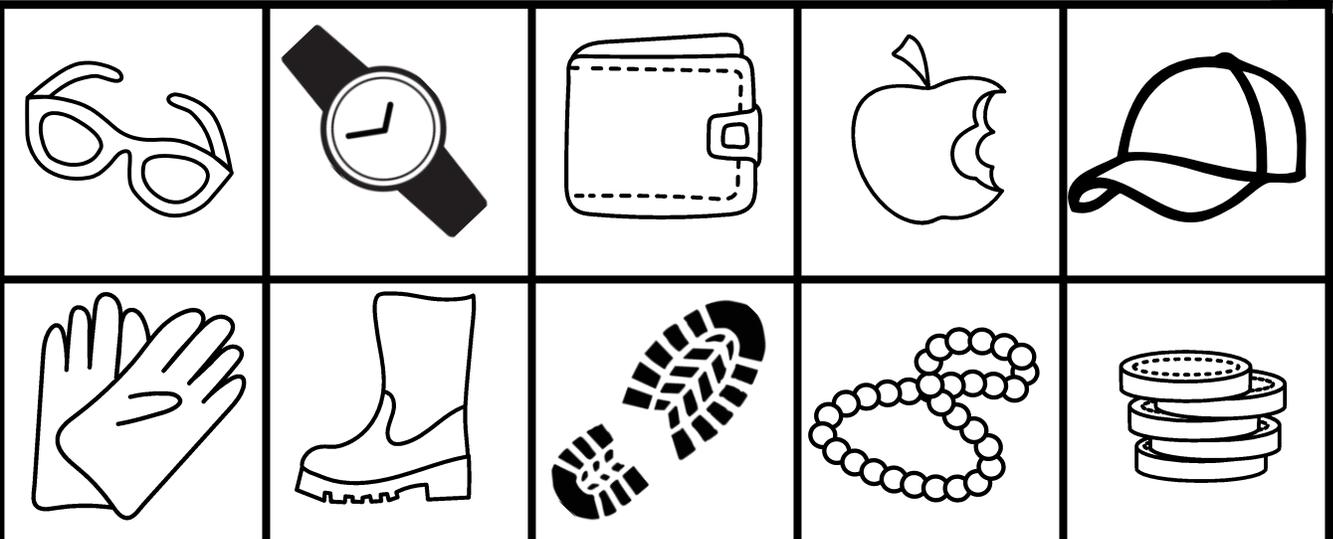
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



INTERACTIVE VOCABULARY



Directions: Read each definition below and find the matching vocabulary word. Next, fill in the blank with the missing word in the definition and write the VOCAB word next to the definition. Lastly, CROSS-OFF the image found on the vocab card on your case file sheet.

FILL IN THE BLANK

VOCAB WORD

Also known as Article III, this branch _____ the laws.	
The highest _____ court in the US, consisting of nine justices.	
Also known as Article II, this branch _____ the laws.	
Also known as Article I, this branch _____ the laws.	
Also known as the Legislative Branch, made up of the _____ and the House of Representatives.	
Also known as the Upper House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has _____ members.	
Also known as the Lower House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has _____ members.	
Leader of the _____ Branch and is both the Head of State and the Commander-in-Chief of the US armed forces.	
To deny, _____, or refuse to approve a bill.	
An idea for a _____.	
A nomination by the President for a _____ or position.	
A group of _____ to the President.	
The highest ranking judge of the _____ Court.	

<p>The power of courts to decide if the _____ of the Legislative and Executive Branches are constitutional.</p>	
<p>A body of people (typically twelve) sworn to give a _____ in a legal case.</p>	
<p>The highest-ranking Senator of the majority party who leads the _____ in the absence of the Vice President.</p>	
<p>A person elected by the majority party to lead the _____ of Representatives.</p>	
<p>The person ready to take _____ for the President if something should happen to the President.</p>	
<p>To _____ or confirm in an official way.</p>	
<p>To accuse a high-ranking government official of a _____ or misconduct while in office.</p>	
<p>The powers of the government are "balanced" between the three branches to make sure that one branch does not become too _____.</p>	
<p>The relationship between the _____ governments and the federal government.</p>	
<p>Head of the armed forces or _____.</p>	
<p>A member of the Senate that is elected by voters to serve a _____ term.</p>	
<p>A member of the House of Representatives that is elected by _____ to serve a two-year term.</p>	
<p>A change or _____ to the United States Constitution.</p>	
<p>A body of electors chosen by the voters in each _____ to elect the President and Vice President.</p>	

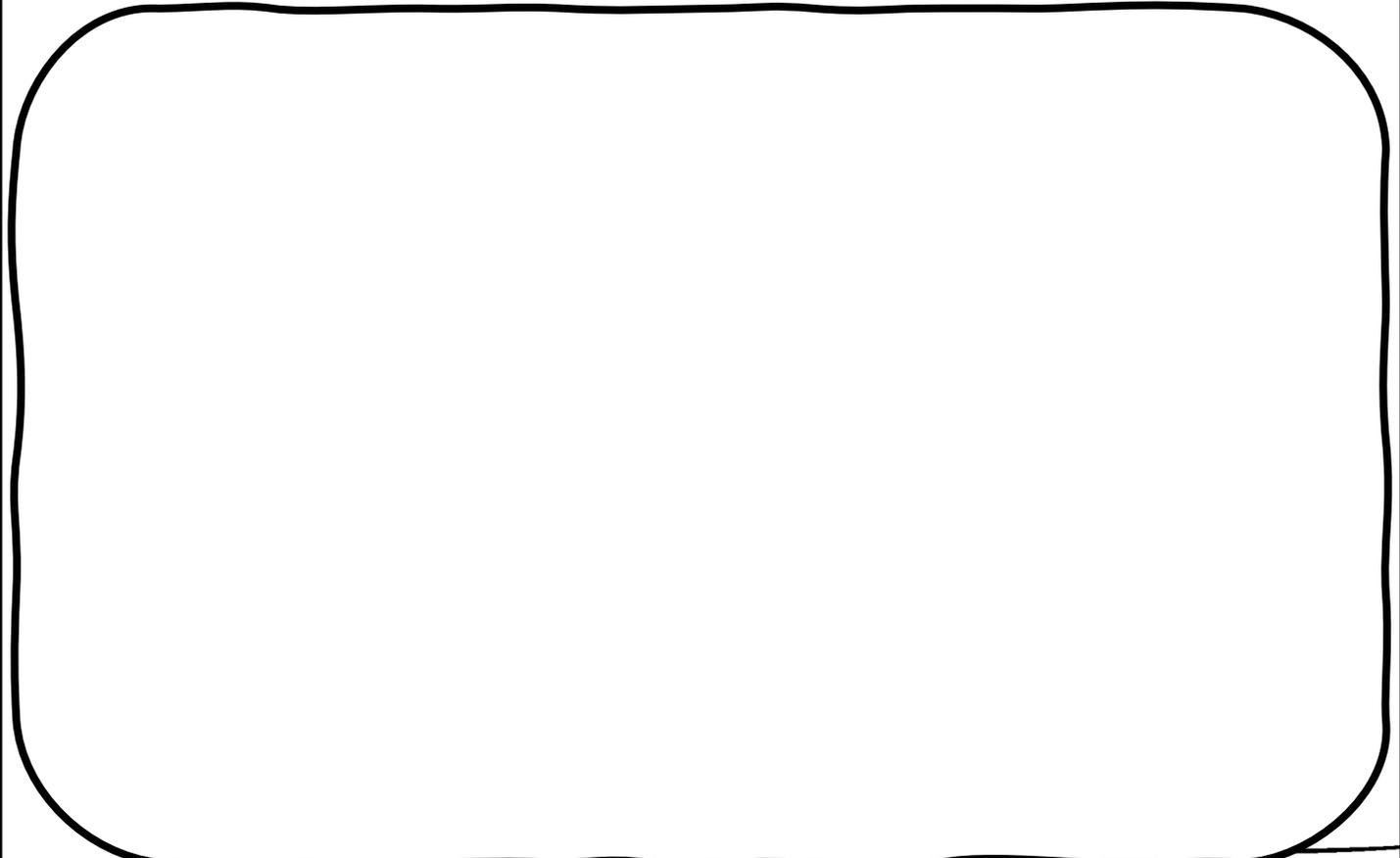
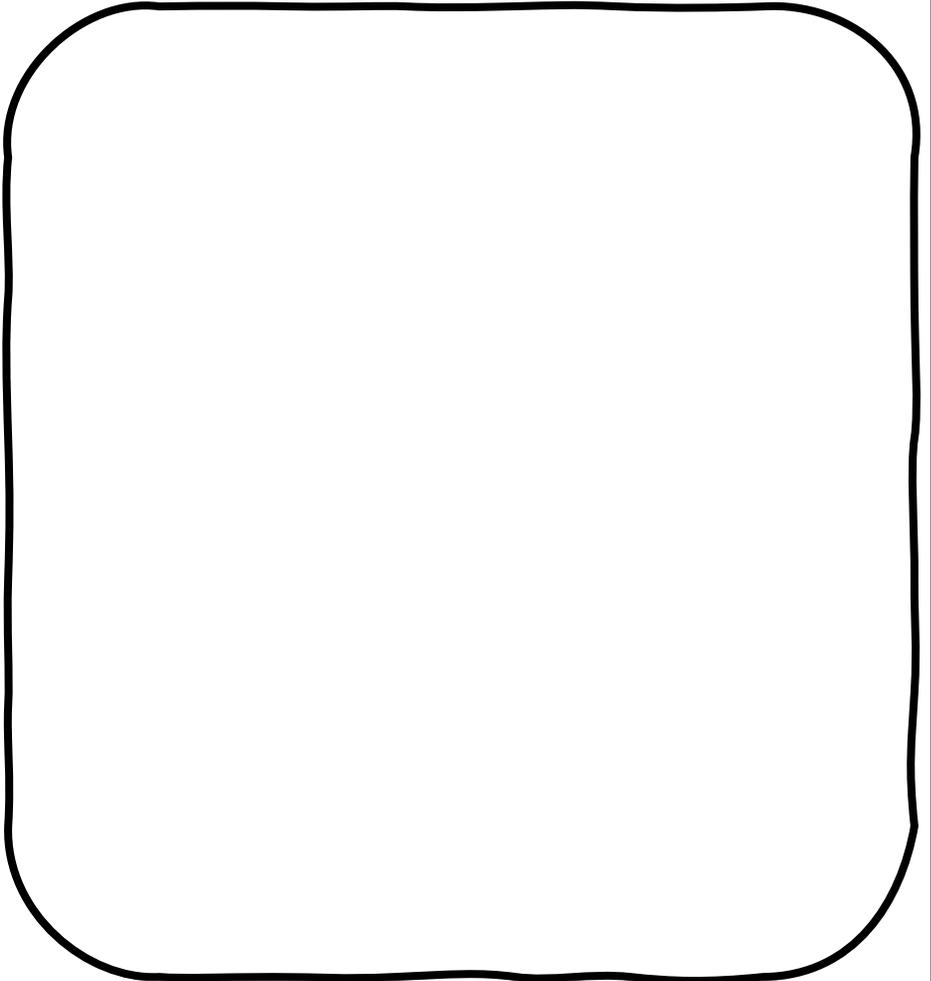
WORD GRAFFITI!

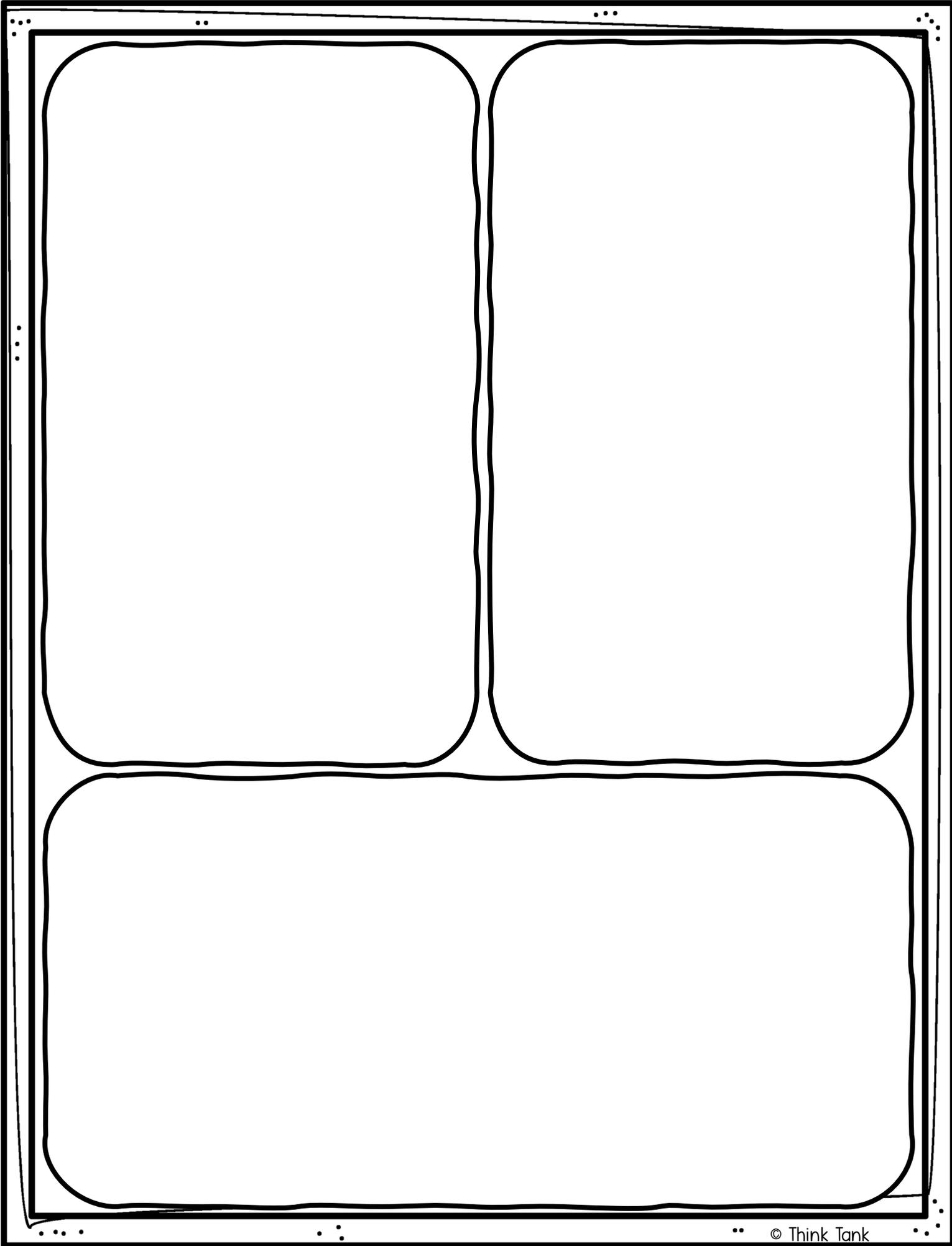
Choose 5 vocabulary words to decorate your graffiti "walls".

Each graffiti wall should have:

- ➔ The vocabulary word in decorative letters (stripes, polka-dots, bubble letters, etc.)
- ➔ Description of the term in your own words (DO NOT copy the definition)
- ➔ A pictures that represent the word
- ➔ A sentence using the word

Your wall should be colorful, creative, and fun to look at. Fill up the entire wall with color!





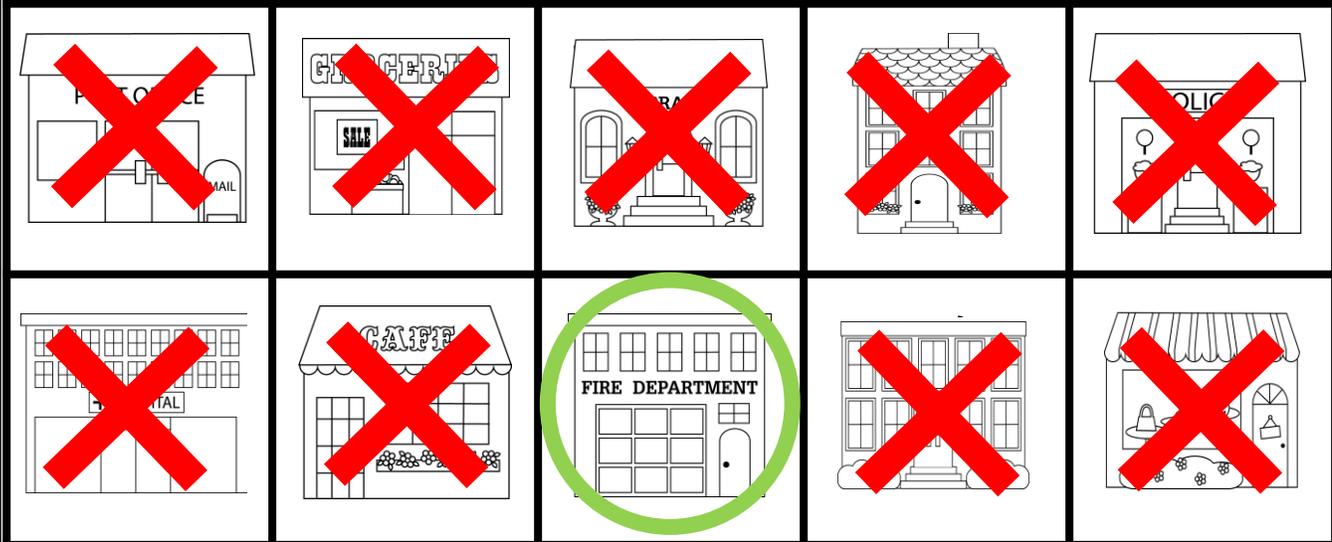
CASE FILE

Cross off the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



INTERACTIVE VOCAB ANSWER KEY



Directions: Read each definition below and find the matching vocabulary word. Next, fill in the blank with the missing word in the definition and write the VOCAB word next to the definition. Lastly, **CROSS-OFF** the image found on the vocab card on your case file sheet.

FILL IN THE BLANK

VOCAB WORD

Also known as Article III, this branch interprets the laws.	Judicial Branch
The highest federal court in the US, consisting of nine justices.	Supreme Court
Also known as Article II, this branch enforces the laws.	Executive Branch
Also known as Article I, this branch creates the laws.	Legislative Branch
Also known as the Legislative Branch, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.	Congress
Also known as the Upper House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has 100 members.	Senate
Also known as the Lower House of the Legislative Branch, this chamber has 435 members.	House of Representatives
Leader of the Executive Branch and is both the Head of State and the Commander-in-Chief of the US armed forces.	President
To deny, reject , or refuse to approve a bill.	Veto
An idea for a law .	Bill
A nomination by the President for a job or position.	Appointment
A group of advisors to the President.	Cabinet
The highest ranking judge of the Supreme Court.	Chief Justice

The power of courts to decide if the acts of the Legislative and Executive Branches are constitutional.	Judicial Review
A body of people (typically twelve) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case.	Jury
The highest-ranking Senator of the majority party who leads the Senate in the absence of the Vice President.	President Pro Tempore
A person elected by the majority party to lead the House of Representatives.	Speaker of the House
The person ready to take over for the President if something should happen to the President.	Vice President
To approve or confirm in an official way.	Ratify
To accuse a high-ranking government official of a crime or misconduct while in office.	Impeach
The powers of the government are "balanced" between the three branches to make sure that one branch does not become too powerful .	Checks and Balances
The relationship between the state governments and the federal government.	Federalism
Head of the armed forces or military .	Commander-in-Chief
A member of the Senate that is elected by voters to serve a six-year term.	Senator
A member of the House of Representatives that is elected by voters to serve a two-year term.	Representative
A change or addition to the United States Constitution.	Amendment
A body of electors chosen by the voters in each state to elect the President and Vice President.	Electoral College

Ideas for your word wall:

1. At the end of your unit have students add words that they think should be on the word wall and relate to your unit. Have them include a word, picture, and definition and hang some on your wall.
2. Allow students to sort the vocab cards into their own categories to form sorting patterns and/or relationships among words. Example: sort by people, place, event, parts of a document, etc.
3. Play "Guess Word". With 30 Vocab Cards you should have enough for each student to have one card. The students will NOT be allowed to see their card and will hold it above their head allowing other students to give them clues.
4. Create an ABC List of words related to the unit. (see next page)
5. Have students write a summary of the unit using a certain number of vocabulary words.
Example: Summarize the Declaration of Independence using 10 vocabulary words.

ABC's of _____

See if you can think of a word related to the unit for every letter of the alphabet.

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

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CONGRATULATIONS WORD SLEUTH!

**YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!**



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

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CONGRATULATIONS WORD SLEUTH!

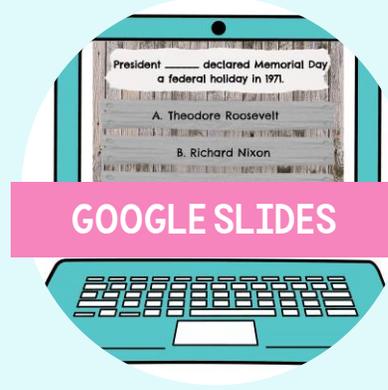
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THE CASE!**



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!



Let's Connect



Email Me

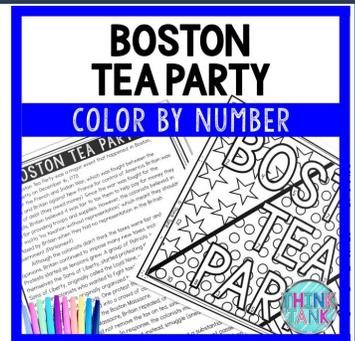


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