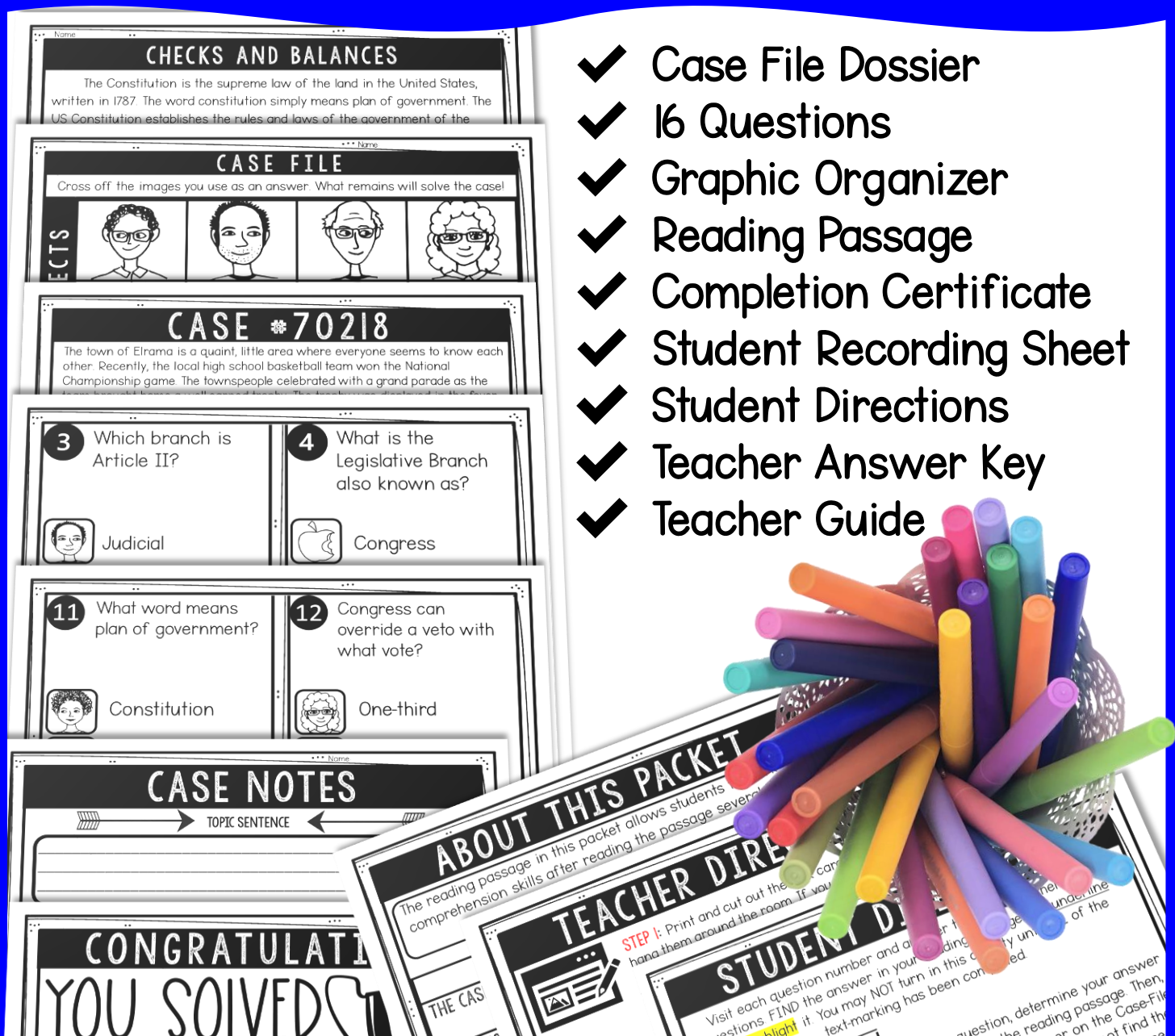


WHAT'S INCLUDED?

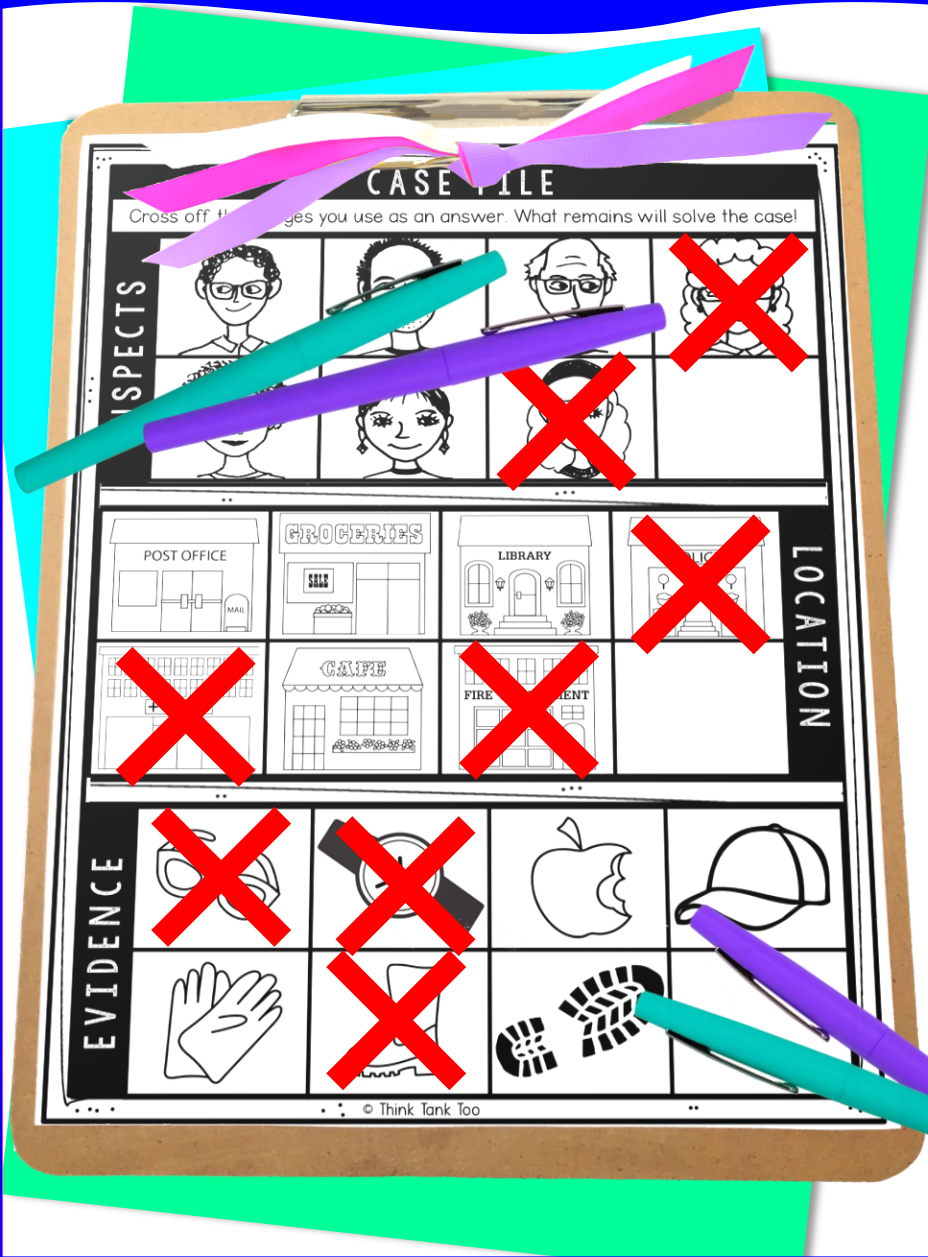


The image displays a stack of educational materials for a civics-themed activity. The top sheet is titled "CHECKS AND BALANCES" and contains a paragraph about the US Constitution. Below it is a "CASE FILE" sheet with a grid of four cartoon faces and a reading passage about a town named Elrama. The next sheet is "CASE #70218" with two questions: "Which branch is Article II?" (with a Judicial branch icon) and "What is the Legislative Branch also known as?" (with a Congress icon). Below that are two more questions: "What word means plan of government?" (with a Constitution icon) and "Congress can override a veto with what vote?" (with a One-third icon). The bottom sheet is "CASE NOTES" with a "TOPIC SENTENCE" line. In the foreground, there is a basket of colorful markers and a "TEACHER DIRECTIONS" sheet with a "STUDENT DIRECTIONS" sheet. The "TEACHER DIRECTIONS" sheet includes the text "ABOUT THIS PACKET" and "The reading passage in this packet allows students to demonstrate their reading comprehension skills after reading the passage several times." The "STUDENT DIRECTIONS" sheet includes the text "Visit each question number and answer the questions. FIND the answer in your reading passage. Underline the text if you may NOT turn in this case file if text-marking has been completed." A "CONGRATULATIONS YOU SOLVED IT" sheet is also visible at the bottom.

- ✓ Case File Dossier
- ✓ 16 Questions
- ✓ Graphic Organizer
- ✓ Reading Passage
- ✓ Completion Certificate
- ✓ Student Recording Sheet
- ✓ Student Directions
- ✓ Teacher Answer Key
- ✓ Teacher Guide

CASE DOSSIER

As students answer each question, they will eliminate suspects, locations, and evidence.







18 QUESTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS YOU SOLVED THE CASE!
DETECTIVE NAME: _____





CONGRATULATIONS

4 What is the Legislative Branch also known as?





-  Congress
-  Justices
-  Parliament
-  Cabinet

6 How many branches of government does the US have?



15 Who has the power to declare war?

-  President
-  Chief Justice
-  Congress
-  Supreme Court

16 What word means to accuse of misbehavior while in office?





-  Impeach
-  Cabinet
-  Impeachment
-  Oath

17 What is the main job of the Judicial Branch?



-  Create laws
-  Interpret laws

18 I...

11 What word means a plan of government?








-  Constitution
-  Article
-  Amendment
-  Clause

13 Which branch creates the laws?

-  Legislative
-  Judicial

14 Wh...

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

SUSPECTS

GROCERIES **LIBRARY** **POLICE**

TEXT MARKING

After answering each question, students will find evidence in the text to support their answer.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land in the United States, written in 1787. The word constitution simply means plan of government. The US Constitution establishes the laws of the government of the United States and sets limits for its citizens. The government has three main branches that function together separately. Each branch has a different power and is a part of the government and to limit the power of each branch. The Framers of the Constitution made sure that no branch of government could have too much power, creating a system known as "checks and balances."

Influenced by the French philosopher Montesquieu, the Framers divided the government into three branches, creating a separation of powers. The three branches include the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch. The Executive Branch, or Article II, enforces the laws. The Executive Branch includes the President, Vice President, and cabinet members who advise the President. The Legislative Branch, or Article I, makes the laws and is also known as Congress. Congress is made up of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Judicial Branch, or Article III, interprets the laws. The highest federal court in the United States is the Supreme Court. Montesquieu also believed these bodies were subject to the rule of law, meaning no one is above the law, not even the President.

The system of checks and balances within the three branches are essential to the functioning of the government. The Framers of the US Constitution had a clear idea of the different forms of government throughout history to find out what would be the best for the country they wanted the US to be. The system they decided on was based on the Greek democratic government with the representation of the people in government.

Checks and balances are essential to ensure that one branch of government does not have too much power over the others. Here are some examples of the checks and balances.

