

3rd and 4th Grade Lesson 1: Government Roots

Intro

- Talk to your students about the US government
 - What do they know about how our nation runs?
 - How did the government get started?
- Remind students how to find the main idea and details of a story (mini-lesson)

Listen and Respond

- Listen to the story *The Constitution and Bill of Rights* by Roben Alarcon
- Students should follow along with the **Constitution and Bill of Rights Fill In The Blanks** page found in the Materials and Resources section
- Model using the **Main Idea and Details** graphic organizer for this story

Project

- Make a tree shaped pattern out of cardboard with at least 3 branches
- Divide students into groups and have them trace and make a tree listing the legislative, judicial and executive branches on paper leaves and gluing them to the tree.
- Each group should have 3–4 other leaves per branch telling what each part of the government does
- More research about the government might need to be done before completing this project
- Share with the class or other grades (buddy classroom if applicable)