SS.7.C.2.8 – Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will compare current political parties' ideas about government.
- Students will evaluate the impact political parties have on society, government, or the political system.

Additional Items: Communist Party, Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, Republican Party, and Socialist Party

bias	a preference, opinion or attitude that favors one way of thinking or feeling over another
candidate	a person running for political office
Communist Party	a political party that believes the government should control all production and distribution of goods and working people should control their own lives and destinies
Democratic Party	a political party that believes that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, particularly those who are in need
government	a system or organization for exercising authority over a body of people
Libertarian Party	a political party that believes in individual freedom and the only purpose of government is to protect this freedom
party platform	a document stating the aims and goals of a political party
political party	an organization that seeks to gain political power by electing members to public office so that their political ideas can be reflected in public policies
political system	the members of a social organization who are in power
Republican Party	a political party that believes that the federal government should play a small role in people's lives; they favor lower taxes and less government spending
Socialist Party	a political party that believes people should own and control industry through democratically controlled public agencies, cooperatives, or other collective groups
society	a body of individuals living as members of a community
third party	a political party that is not one of the two major parties in the country; a minor party
two-party system	a political system consisting primarily of two major parties, more or less equal in strength

Essential Questions:
1. What are America's current political parties?

2. What are their ideas about government?

SS.7.C.2.9 – **Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.**

   Also assessed:

   SS.7.C.2.7 – **Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level.**

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will identify the constitutional requirements to run for federal political office.
- Students will recognize the requirements to run for state and local political offices.
- Students will be able to analyze and/or evaluate the qualifications of candidates for public office based on their experience, platforms, debates, and political advertisements.

candidate	a person running for political office
elector	a person who has the right to vote in an election
evaluate	to determine or to judge
issue based platform	a document stating the goals and principles of a political party or political candidate, also known as a political platform
natural born citizen	someone who was born in the U.S. or born to U.S. citizens
political office	a position for which a candidate is elected to hold
political official	a person holding an elected office
qualification	the traits and accomplishments that fit a person for some function or office
requirement	something necessary
vote	to elect or decide

Essential Question:

1. How does one evaluate candidate running for political office?

SS.7.C.2.10 – Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing the government.

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will identify the methods used by interest groups to monitor and/or influence the government.
- Students will identify the methods used by the media to monitor and/or influence the government.
- Students will evaluate the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on the government.
- Students will identify and evaluate methods of influencing and/or monitoring government.

Additional Items: lobbying, lobbyist, political action committee, special interest (group), watchdog

impact	to have a strong effect on something or someone
influence	having an effect or impact on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of another or others
interest group	people who are concerned with some particular issue or part of the government and who try to influence legislators or to act in their favor, also known as a special interest group
lobbying	to conduct activities in order to influence public officials
lobbyist	a person who conducts activities in order to influence public officials
media	plural form of the word "medium," refers to various means of communication. For example, television, radio, newspapers and the Internet (web) are different types of media. The term can also be used as a collective noun for the press or news reporting agencies.
monitor	to watch, keep track of, or check usually for a special purpose
petitioning the government	any nonviolent, legal means of encouraging or disapproving government action, directed to the judicial, executive or legislative branch
political action committee (PAC)	an independent political organization that seeks to promote the cause of a particular interest group, usually through raising money and campaigning to elect candidates who support the group's views
public agenda	a list of issues that much of society agrees are a priority
public policy	government actions in the form of laws
public sphere	a place where society discusses the issues that affect everyone
watchdog	a person or group who acts as a protector or guardian

Essential Questions:
1. What methods do individuals, the media, and interest groups use to monitor the government?

2. What methods do they use to influence the government?

SS.7.C.2.11 – Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will use scenarios to identify bias, symbolism, and propaganda.
- Students will evaluate how bias, symbolism, and propaganda can impact public opinion.

bandwagon	propaganda technique encouraging the viewer to like something or someone because everyone else does
Bias	a preference, opinion or attitude that favors one way of thinking or feeling over another
card stacking	propaganda technique involving the use of showing one-sided information
glittering generalities	propaganda technique using short phrases or words to promote positive feelings or emotions
media	plural form of the word "medium," refers to various means of communication. For example, television, radio, and the newspaper are different types of media. The term can also be used as a collective noun for the press or news reporting agencies
name calling	propaganda technique using negative words to associate with a product or person
plain folks	propaganda technique conveying that a candidate is a "regular" person, just like everyone else
political communication	the use of media to convey messages or information related to government issues, campaigns or public offices
propaganda	the method of spreading ideas or information for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person
symbolism	the use of something to represent ideas or qualities
testimonial	propaganda technique involving the use of a celebrity or spokesperson to speak on behalf of a product of candidate
transfer	propaganda technique involving the use of symbols to convey a message or feeling

Essential Questions:
1. What types of communication techniques and methods are used in the media and political communications?

2. How can these techniques impact public opinion?

SS.7.C.2.12 – **Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.**

Benchmark Clarifications:

- Students will identify the appropriate level of government to resolve specific problems.
- Students will identify appropriate government agencies to address state or local problems.
- Students will analyze public policy alternatives to resolve state and local problems.
- Students will compare public policy solutions and private community service solutions

SS.7.C.2.13 – **Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues.**

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will identify groups that influence public perspectives.
- Students will use scenarios to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups.
- Students will examine how multiple perspectives shape participation in the political process.

deliberate	to think about or discuss issues and decisions carefully
editorial	an opinion based item generated by the editor or editorial board of a newspaper or other media.
Issue	a subject that is under debate by two or more parties
nonprofit organization	a group organized on a local, national or international level to perform a variety of services related to an issue or variety of issues; funding goes toward the issue instead of making a profit
perspective	point of view
political party	an organization that seeks to gain political power by electing members to public office so that their political ideas can be reflected in public policies
special interest group	people who are concerned with some particular issue or part of the government and who try to influence legislators to act in their favor
voting age population	citizens residing in the United States, age 18 and older; before the passage of the 26th Amendment in 1971, the voting-age population was age 21 and older for most states

Essential Questions:
1. What are some multiple perspectives on current issues?

2. How might these perspectives impact participation in the political process?

SS.7.C.4.1: Differentiate concepts related to U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

Benchmark Clarification

- Students will recognize the difference between domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will identify issues that relate to U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will analyze the domestic implications of U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will identify the goals and objectives of U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will recognize the role of the U.S. State Department in foreign affairs.

<u>Additional Items</u>: alliances, allies, ambassadors, diplomacy, diplomatic, doctrine, domestic affairs, embassies, foreign affairs, international relation, Secretary of State, treaty

alliance	a union between nations for assistance and protection
Allies	nations united with another for some common purpose such as assistance and protection
ambassador	a person sent as the chief representative of his or her own government in another country
diplomacy	the work of keeping up relations between the governments of different countries
diplomat	a person employed or skilled in diplomacy
doctrine	the principles in a system of belief
domestic affairs	issues or concerns in one's own country
domestic policy	a course of action chosen to guide people in making decisions about their own country
embassy	the residence or office of an ambassador
foreign affairs	issues or concerns about other countries around the world
foreign policy	a course of action chosen in order to guide people in making decisions about other countries
HIV/AIDS	the virus that causes AIDS, spread through bodily fluids rather than casual contact or airborne
international relations	dealings between nations around the world
Secretary of State	the head of the U.S. Department of State; a member of the President's Cabinet
treaty	an agreement or arrangement between two or more countries
U.S. State Department	the federal department in the U. S. that sets and maintains foreign policies; part of the executive branch of the federal government

Essential Questions:
1. What is domestic policy?

2. What is foreign policy?

3. What are the differences between domestic and foreign policy?

SS.7.C.4.2 – Recognize government and citizen participation in international organizations.

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role.
- Students will recognize that international organizations may be located in the United States.
- Students will describe ways that individual citizens and government can seek participation in international organizations.
- Students will examine the ways that government and individuals may support international organizations.

Additional Items: Non-Governmental Organizations/International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO/INGO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), International Red Cross/Red Crescent, United Nations (UN), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Court, World Trade Organization (WTO)

European Union	an organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members
intergovernmental organization	an organization formed with groups of governments for a specific purpose
international organization	groups of governments or people from different countries working together to solve an issue that crosses country borders
International Red Cross/Red Crescent	an organization that helps people around the world respond to natural disasters and that checks on the conditions of prisoners of war
non-governmental organization (NGO)	a voluntary citizens' group that is organized on a local, national or international level and works ; they perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate for certain issues such as human rights or the environment, and encourage political participation; also known as international non-governmental organization (INGO)
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	a formal agreement among the governments of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to form a free trade zone in North America and eliminate taxes on the buying and selling of each other's products
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other in case of attack; founded in 1949
treaty	an agreement or arrangement between two or more countries
United Nations (UN)	an organization founded in 1943 to keep the peace, develop friendly relationships among countries, and improve the quality of life for the world's poor people; consists of 193 member countries
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	an agency of the United Nations established in 1946 to help governments improve the health and education of children and their mothers
World Bank	an organization that helps poor and middle income countries get the money they need to build improvements that will help reduce poverty
World Court	a permanent panel of fifteen judges appointed by the UN to nine-year terms to hear cases; cases argued before the court focus on disputes between nations who agree to accept its decisions
World Health Organization	an organization established in 1948 within the United Nations that works to improve health throughout the world
World Trade Organization (WTO)	an international body founded in 1995 to promote international trade and economic development by reducing taxes and other restrictions

Essential Questions:
1. What are international organizations?

2. How can government and individual citizens support and play a role in them?

SS.7.C.4.3 – Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

Benchmark Clarifications:
- Students will identify specific examples of international conflicts in which the United States has been involved.
- Students will identify the reasons for the United States becoming involved in past international conflicts.
- Students will analyze primary source documents pertaining to international incidents to determine the course of action taken by the United States.
- Students will identify the different methods used by the United States to deal with international conflicts.

Additional Items: Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Gulf Wars I & II, Iran Hostage Crisis, Korean War, terrorism, Vietnam War, World War I, World War II

Bay of Pigs	a bay of the Caribbean Sea in Cuba: it was the site of an attempted invasion of Cuba by anti-Fidel Castro forces in April 1961.
Conflict	a sharp disagreement (as between ideas, interests, or purposes)
conflict resolution	the process of ending a conflict or disagreement
Cooperation	the act of working together
Cuban Missile Crisis	in 1962, leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense, 13-day political and military standoff in October over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles in Cuba
Diplomacy	the work of keeping up relations between the governments of different countries
Gulf War I	a military conflict in 1991 between Iraq and a coalition force of 34 nations mandated by the United Nations and led by the U.S., also known as the Persian Gulf War
Gulf War II	the 2003 military conflict Iraq, also called the Iraq War or "Operation Iraqi Freedom", began March 20, 2003, initiated by the U.S., the United Kingdom and other nations
humanitarian efforts	work focused on improving the health and happiness of other people
international conflict	a conflict between two different nations or groups
Iran Hostage Crisis	a 444-day period during which the new government of Iran after the Iranian Revolution held hostage 66 diplomats and U.S. citizens, beginning on November 4, 1979 and ending on January 20, 1981
Korean War	a war between North and South Korea; South Korea was aided by the U.S. and other members of the United Nations from 1950-1953
military action	members of the U.S. military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) having a presence in another country typically involving the use of force to stop conflict
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other in case of attack; founded in 1949
peacekeeping operations	enforcing a truce between countries or groups by an international military force
terrorism	the use of extreme fear as a means of achieving a goal
United Nations	an organization founded in 1943 to keep the peace, develop friendly relationships among countries, and improve the quality of life for the world's poor people; consists of 193 member countries
U.S. State Department	the federal department in the U. S. that sets and maintains foreign policies; part of the executive branch of the federal government
Vietnam War	a military conflict (1954-1975) between the Communist forces of North Vietnam supported by China and the Soviet Union and the non-Communist forces of South Vietnam supported by the U.S.
World War I	a war between the allies (Russia, France, British Empire, Italy, U.S., Japan, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Montenegro) and the central powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria) from 1914 to 1918
World War II	a war that began on July7, 1937 in Asia and September 1, 1939 in Europe and lasted until 1945; it involved most of the world's countries

Essential Questions:

1. What international conflicts has the U.S. been involved in?

2. Why did the U.S. become involved?

3. What kinds of actions did the U.S. take in these conflicts?