

CHAPTER 9

QUICK TOUR (1 OF 3)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER: Use the Quick Tour of the chapter to provide an overview of the most important concepts from the chapter. The Quick Tour focuses on images and special features in the chapter.

PAGES 212–213

The Constitution provides the basis for our government.

- Page 212 image: The Constitution of the United States is our written plan for government.
- The U.S. government is a representative democracy.
- In a representative democracy, people choose representatives to make laws for them.
- People have a responsibility to vote for their representatives.
- Page 213 images: The government is divided into three levels: federal, state, and local.

PAGES 214–215

The Bill of Rights includes the first ten amendments, or changes, to the Constitution.

- The first amendment to the Constitution ensures that people have freedom of religion, speech, and the press. They are also free to join any group and to start and sign a petition.
- The second amendment allows people to own guns, though the government can limit the number and type purchased.
- The third amendment assures that people will not be forced to house soldiers in their homes.
- The fourth amendment fifth through eighth amendments protects people who are suspected of or accused of committing crimes.
- The ninth amendment states that people have more rights than are specifically mentioned in the Bill of Rights.
- The tenth amendment states that the federal government does not have all the power. State and local governments also have power.

PAGES 216–220

State and local governments protect rights and make laws specifically designed for the people living there.

- Ohio has its own Constitution and its own government that follows the rules of the U.S. Constitution.
- Local governments are close to home in a county, city, or town.
- Local governments solve the problems of the residents of a county, city, or town.
- Page 218 image: Ohio is divided into 88 counties.
- County governments provide services for the people living in the county.
- Some services provided by a county include fire and police services, family services, food assistance, and clean water.
- City and town governments make ordinances, or rules, for the people living there.
- Cities and towns decide how fast people should drive, whether or not a school should be built, where people can walk their dogs, where to have a fireworks show, or how trash should be picked up.

CHAPTER 9

QUICK TOUR (2 of 3)

- Page 219 image: City council people make the rules for a city and often meet in a building called “City Hall.”
- All levels of government make laws that protect people’s rights and require personal responsibility.
- It is important for citizens to obey the laws because they are meant to keep us safe and happy.

PAGES 221–223

There are three branches of federal and state governments that work together to make laws and protect the people.

- The executive branch of government carries out the laws that are passed.
- The president of the United States and the governor of a state are the head of the executive branch of government.
- The legislative branch of government makes the laws.
- The people elected to make our laws are our representatives. Representatives are also called legislators.
- The legislative branch of the U.S. government is Congress.
- The legislative branch of Ohio is called the General Assembly.
- The courts make up the judicial branch of government; this branch decides what the laws mean.
- The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in our country.
- Ohio’s highest court is called the State Supreme Court.

PAGE 224

The governor is the head of a state’s executive branch.

- Governors carry out and enforce the laws made by a state’s General Assembly.
- Governors create state budgets and sign bills into law or veto them.
- Governors run the state’s military or National Guard.
- Page 224 images: Several of Ohio’s governors later became President of the United States.

PAGES 225–226

Citizens have both rights and responsibilities to Ohio and the United States.

- Civic responsibilities are actions people are supposed to do for the good of the people living in their state or country.
- Voting, paying taxes, and obeying the laws are examples of civic responsibilities.
- Kids can be good citizens by following the rules of a family, school, and community by telling the truth and by being involved in community service.

CHAPTER 9

QUICK TOUR (3 OF 3)

PAGES 227–230

When people get involved in a state or national government, they can influence it.

- Voting is an important civic responsibility and is our opportunity to make a difference in the government.
- Staying informed about issues in our government helps us choose leaders that represent our needs and wants.
- People can give state lawmakers their opinion by writing a letter to them or making a phone call.
- Page 228 image: The cartoon reminds us that everyone needs to respect the opinions of other people in order for us to live peaceably.
- We will not always agree on what is best for Ohio and must compromise with others to settle differences.
- It is important to share our opinions in debates so that we can affect what happens around us.
- Page 230 images: Volunteering helps people in need and makes our cities, states, and country better places to live.

PAGE 231

You are important to the future of Ohio.

- Page 231 image: Kids are part of Ohio's story and can make a difference in Ohio's future.
- By being good citizens, we can enjoy a great place to live, work, and grow.
- The choices you make today can affect your future and the future of Ohio.

