

**HOCPP 1032 Revised**

# **In The Hands of A Child**

**Grades 4 & Up**



**Project Pack**

# **American Government**



**A Ready-to-Assemble  
Hands-On Unit  
Including Reproducibles**

# American Government

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In the Hands of a Child

[www.handsofachild.com](http://www.handsofachild.com)

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From the time we first began using Project Packs we fell in love with them. We knew that this type of hands-on learning experience was just the thing that was needed to make boring academics not only educational but, fun and exciting too!

To help get you started we have included some of the questions we receive about Project Packs.

### What is a Project Pack?

A Project Pack is simply a great way of compiling key points from your studies into one spot that can easily be stored and available to be reviewed at any time

### How does this help me? and Why is this a better way for learning?

The number one reason is the students will retain the information covered so much faster. Children learn by doing. Project Packs put learning into their hands!

Another reason is it is a convenient way to store those wonderful projects. Students can go back and review them at any time and your schoolroom or refrigerator is not cluttered with bits and pieces of their projects.

And the final reason is they are great and the possibilities are endless! There are no age limits and no subject lines that cannot be worked into a Project Pack. We will be adding many units to help you in the education of your students.

### How do I make a Project Pack?

A Project Pack is simply a file folder refolded into a shutter style book. Open it flat and then fold the sides into the middle creasing neatly and there you have it.

***For a more colorful and eye-appealing Project Pack it is suggested that some of your Reproducibles be printed out on colored multi-purpose paper.***

### What supplies do I need?

You will want to have file folders, paper of different colors and weights, your students' favorite coloring tools, tape, glue, scissors, and a stapler.

## Adapting a Project Pack to Fit the Needs of Your Student

Adapting a Project or Research Pack is key to ensuring that you provide the best lesson for your student. At first glance, some might just skip over an activity because they feel it is too easy or too difficult for their student. We want you to use all the activities we provide...they are easily adaptable!

For example, if you have a PK-3 student the vocabulary activities might be difficult for him or her to complete. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities that require your student to write:

1. Have your student dictate vocabulary words and their meanings as you write them.
2. Have your child draw a picture instead of writing.
3. You write the word or sentence first so your student can see how it is written.
4. Practice. Practice. Practice. In the car, on a walk, in the shopping cart! Practice saying the vocabulary words and what they mean. Before you know it your preschooler will be telling others what those words mean!
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

On the other hand, some of the activities may seem too easy for your student. Does your 5<sup>th</sup> grade level student want to learn about butterflies, but the Project Pack seems too easy? Try it anyway; just change things up a bit to suit that grade level. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities to make them a little more difficult.

1. In addition to writing down vocabulary words and their meanings, ask your student to use the word in a sentence; either verbally or written.
2. Give your student 1 hour (or other reasonable time frame) to research the topic on their own; either online or at the library. Give your student a set of questions or see what he/she can find without your guidance.
3. Encourage your student to expand on the topic or choose a related topic to learn about.
4. Take a look at some of our preschool units...there is lots of clipart related to each topic. Have your older student cut these out and write a story or play about the pictures or perform a play.
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

These are just a few ways you can adapt a Project Pack to meet the needs of your student. Let your student be the judge if something is too easy or too difficult...you just might be surprised!

The Website links we have included in our guides are references we found that contain relevant information. However, the sites are not owned or maintained by In the Hands of a Child. The content may have changed or become a “dead” link. If you find the site contains inappropriate material or is no longer a site, please let us know!

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In December, one month after the general election, the electors cast their votes. The electoral votes are counted on January 6<sup>th</sup> and the Presidential candidate with more than half the votes (270) wins the election. You have won the election...now what? You and the Vice President-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Senate Elections

There are 2 Senators from each state in the Senate. Each member serves a 6-year term and then must run for reelection. In the Senate race, the candidate with the most votes wins. In order to run for Senate a person must meet certain qualifications including:

- ✓ Be at least 30 years old
- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years
- ✓ Be a resident of the state from which he or she is elected

### Representative Elections

There are 435 members in the House of Representatives. Each member serves a two-year term and then must run for reelection. Only the people who live in a particular candidate's congressional district may vote for him or her. The candidate with the most votes in each district wins the election. In order to be elected to the House of Representatives, a candidate must meet certain qualifications including:

- ✓ Be at least 25 years old
- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years
- ✓ Be a resident of the state from which he or she is elected

### Federalism

Federalism is the sharing of power between the national government and the individual state governments. The power in the United States is distributed between the national and state government like this:

### Timeline

**1764:** Parliament passes Sugar Act

**March 1765:** Parliament passes Stamp Act

**October 1765:** Stamp Act Congress meets in Philadelphia

**1766:** Parliament repeals Stamp Act

**March 1767:** Parliament passes Townshend Act

**1768:** British troops enter Boston to enforce taxation laws.

**March 1770:** Parliament repeals Townshend Act

**March 5, 1770:** Boston Massacre

**1772:** Committees of Correspondence begins

**May 10, 1773:** Parliament passes Tea Act

**November 28, 1773:** Ships arrive in Boston Harbor with tea

**December 16, 1773:** Boston Tea Party

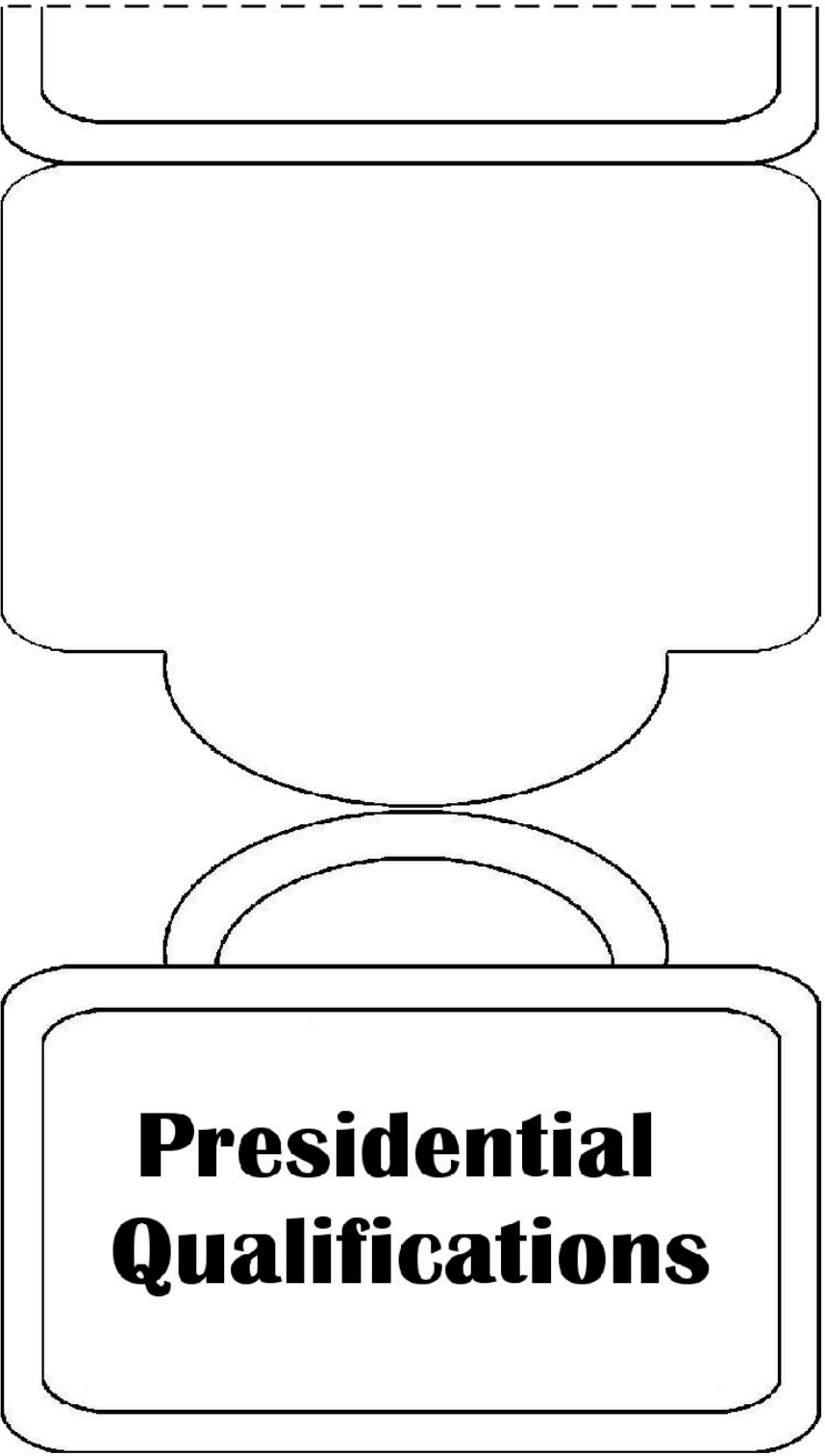
**February 1774:** Parliament passes Intolerable Acts

**May 10, 1773:** Parliament passes Tea Act

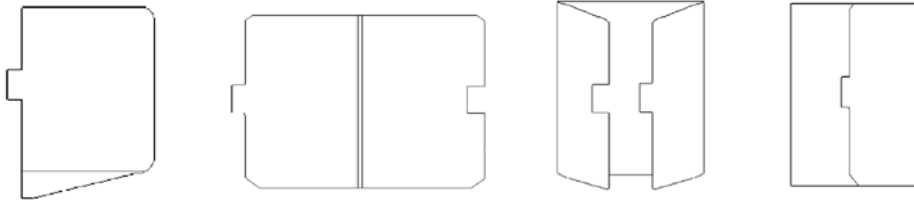
**Activity 14**

List the qualifications needed to become President.

Do you meet any of those qualifications? Check off the ones you meet.  
Fold and close like a matchbook.



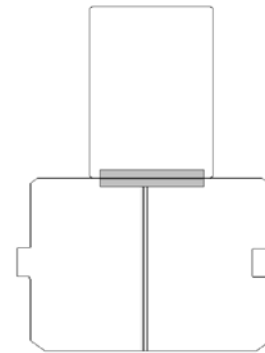
## Instructions to Re-fold a Folder



### Normal Fold:

Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge to the center crease creating a shutter  
Cut a folder in half OR use a piece of cardstock to form your extension  
Lay the extension in the center of the shutter fold folder  
Attach at the top end using clear packing tape



### Double Folder:

Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge in toward the center crease creating a shutter

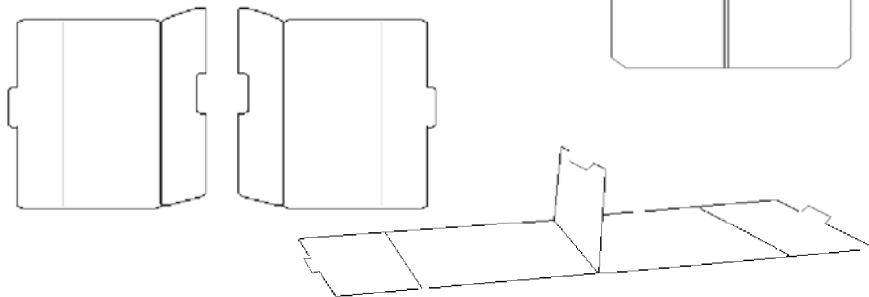
Do this again with a second folder

Set both folders side by side with their shutters opened (pointing straight up not flat)

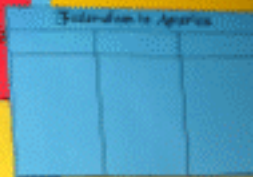
In the center where the two folders meet glue the outer flaps of each shutter together connecting the two folders

Fold both shutters closed and flip over and close

The back of one of the folders becomes your cover



\*\*\*You can add extensions to a double folder using the same method as for a single folder.



A  
C  
L  
E  
N  
C  
E  
S



Branches of  
Judiciary

What is it?

What is it used for?

What is it?

What is it used for?



Law & Presidential Order

VICTOR  
&  
POCKET VICTOR

VICTOR & POCKET VICTOR

The  
Bill of Rights

1791



Parts of the  
Constitution

Presidential  
Qualifications



My State  
Representatives  
and Delegates



The  
Maya  
Celts



Branches of  
American  
Government

Citizen Alien National

The Purpose  
of Government



Handwritten notes on a blue sticky note, including the words 'The Constitution' and 'The Bill of Rights'.