

## DUM č. 13 v sadě

### 2. Aj-2 Reálie anglicky mluvících zemí

Autor: Eva Zajíčková

Datum: 22.05.2014

Ročník: maturitní ročníky

Anotace DUMu: Politický systém USA. Aktivity doplňující a opakující znalosti studentů týkající se amerických politiků a systému vlády USA v rámci tématu System of Government in the USA.

Materiály jsou určeny pro bezplatné používání pro potřeby výuky a vzdělávání na všech typech škol a školských zařízení. Jakékoliv další využití podléhá autorskému zákonu.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN THE USA

## TEACHER'S SHEET

### Background information:

- *Basic information*
- *Political system*
- *Constitution*
- *Political Parties*
- *Elections*
  
- *Basic information:* - *federation of 50 states, one federal district and several territories*  
- *parliamentary, presidential democracy*  
- *flag (Stars and Stripes), anthem, currency*
- *Political system:* *based on Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the USA, checks and balances principle*  
*head of the state - President*  
*Legislature - Congress → Senate (100, 6 years)*  
*→ House of Representatives*  
*(435, 2 years)*  
*Executive (President, Cabinet, Departments)*  
*Judiciary (Supreme Court, Federal courts, State courts)*
- *Constitution – written in 1787, ratified in 1789*  
*Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments)*  
*27 amendments today*
- *Political Parties – Democratic and Republican Party, several minor parties*
- *Elections – every four year*  
*primary elections, conventions*  
*electors, electorates*

Zdroje informací:

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

[www.america.gov](http://www.america.gov)

archív autorky

Zdroje obrázků:

[https://openclipart.org/detail/3809/abraham-lincoln-by-fundraw\\_dot\\_com](https://openclipart.org/detail/3809/abraham-lincoln-by-fundraw_dot_com)

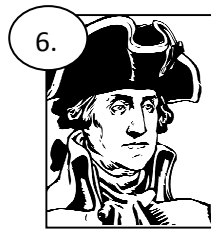
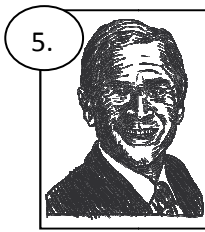
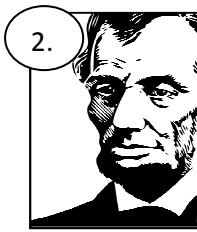
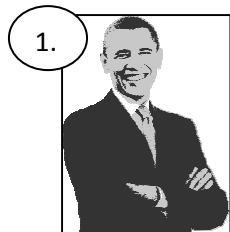
[https://openclipart.org/detail/3735/george-washington-by-fundraw\\_dot\\_com](https://openclipart.org/detail/3735/george-washington-by-fundraw_dot_com)

<https://openclipart.org/detail/190515/martin-luther-king-jr.-speaking-by-j4p4n-190515>

<https://openclipart.org/detail/21613/barack-obama-print-warhol-stylee-by-rejon>

<https://openclipart.org/detail/138427/george-w.-bush-by-dabnotu>

<http://office.microsoft.com>



**Read the mini medallions of some important American politicians, try to identify them and match them with the portraits above:**

a) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1917, assassinated in 1963 in Dallas. 35<sup>th</sup> President of the USA. He is considered as an icon of American liberalism. Events during his presidency included the Bay of Swine Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Space Race—by initiating Project Apollo (which would culminate in the moon building), the building of the Berlin Wall, the African-American Civil Rights Movement, and increased U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

b) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1809, assassinated in 1865. He was the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the USA, led the US through its Civil War and its greatest moral, constitutional and political crisis. In so doing he preserved the Union, abolished slavery, strengthened the national government and modernized the economy.

c) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1946, is an American politician and businessman who served as the 43<sup>rd</sup> President of the USA from 2001 to 2009. Nationally, Bush was both one of the most popular and unpopular presidents in history, having received the highest recorded presidential approval ratings in the wake of 9/11, as well as one of the lowest approval ratings during the 2008 financial crisis. Internationally, he was a highly controversial figure, with public protests, mainly due to the US involvement in non-American military conflicts (Iraq, Afghanistan, etc).

d) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1732, died in 1791. Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and one of the Founding Fathers of the USA. Unanimously elected President, served two terms. He presided over the convention that drafted the United States Constitution. The most famous story about his childhood is that he chopped down his father's favourite cherry tree and admitted the deed when questioned: "I can't tell a lie, Pa."

e) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1961, is the 44<sup>th</sup> and current President of the USA, and the first African American to hold the office. He was a community organizer in Chicago before earning his law degree, then worked as a civil rights attorney. Member of the Democratic Party. In foreign policy, he ended the US military involvement in Iraq, started the process of ending US combat operations in Afghanistan. Nationally, his health care programs, gun control programs and many others are under constant republican criticism.

f) \_\_\_\_\_

Born in 1929, assassinated in 1968, was an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the fight for civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs.

## **Teacher's notes:**

### **Task I. – American politicians:**

Print the handout with the short texts and portraits of some American politicians.

Give them to the students and ask them to read, identify and match the texts with the portraits.

Check the answers with the whole class, gather any other information and discuss their opinions on the roles of these personalities in the American political life and history.

**Key:** 1. e) Barack Obama 2. b) Abraham Lincoln 3. a) John Fitzgerald Kennedy  
4. f) Martin Luther King jr. 5. c) George W. Bush 6. d) George Washington

### **Task II. – System of government of the USA:**

Print the handout and fold it into halves.

Students work individually, they complete the diagram according to their previous knowledge or if the activity is used as the start, give them the clues (write them on the whiteboard or dictate them randomly):

***Federal government, Constitution, Checks and balances, Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Congress, President, Supreme Court, Senate, House of Representatives, Cabinet/Departments, Federal Courts, 100 members, 435 members, two years, six years, Vice President, Speaker, Secretaries of State/Heads of Departments, State Courts***

When they finish, they can unfold the handout and check their answers.

Add any other information and discuss them with the students.

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

## CHECKS AND BALANCES

