

Government Study Guide

SOLs: 3.10 – 3.12

Vocabulary

1. **Community** – a place where people live, work, and play
2. **Government** – a group of people who make rules and laws, carry out rules and laws, and decide if rules and laws have been broken
3. **Inalienable Rights** – these are privileges that people are born with and cannot be taken away; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – equality under the way
4. **Laws** – Rules people live by that are written and carried out by the government
5. **Rules** – what people must or must not do. Rules let people know how they should act or behave.
6. **Diversity** – the differences between people such as age, religion, and race
7. **Representative Democracy** – where citizens elect people to speak for us in making the laws

Facts to Know

- Government exists in Loudoun County (Local), Virginia (state), and in the United States (national).
- Governments are necessary because they develop the laws and protect the rights and property of people.
- Equality under the law means that all people are treated fairly.
- The U.S. government is an example of a Representative Democracy, and it is an example of a republic.
- American people come from different countries and are of different races, but all are united by a republican form of government.
- The benefits of diversity, which is people coming from different countries, are food, clothing, and music.
- Citizens responsibilities: obey the laws, pay taxes, be proud and loyal to our country
- Ways people can serve their community, state, and nation are:
 - Being a volunteer
 - Getting involved in community projects
 - Serving as a government official
 - Join military
 - Voting