SS.7.C.1.7
Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.

This material is adapted from resources developed by the Center for Civic Education.

SS.7.C.1.7 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will explain the concept of limited government as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

The Constitution includes the principle of limited government. This means that government can do only what the people allow it to do. In the United States the government is limited in power by a constitution, or written agreement. Constitutional government is a form of government based on a written set of laws to which all citizens agree. In this form of government, the Constitution is the highest law of the land. The Constitution limits the power of both the federal and state governments. It says what each may and may not do. Constitutional government is organized in such a way that one person or group cannot get enough power to control the government.

Source