Social Studies study guide for the Government Quiz



1. The philosopher who described people as selfish and greedy was Thomas Hobbes.
2. The philosopher who believed that people were reasonable, although selfish at times was John Locke.
3. The philosopher who believed that people were naturally good, although government and society corrupts them is Jean Jacques Rousseau.
4. The plain purpose of the first ten amendments to the Constitution is to ensure that people have rights.
5. Ratifying a new amendment must be used to change an already existing amendment.
6. The United States Government has a system called Checks and Balances, so that no one branch of government has too much power. The three branches of government are: Judicial, Executive and Legislative.
7. The Judicial branch is comprised of (made up of) the judges and has the power of Judicial Review.
8. The Legislative branch is comprised of Congress, which is the Senate and House of Representatives. They make the laws and veto bills.
9. The Executive branch is comprised of the President and the Vice President. He has the power of Commander in Chief of the Army. He also appoints judges and ambassadors and can veto bills. The president is elected by the Electoral College, whose magic number is 270.
10. Our Constitution gives the Federal government enumerated powers and the state governments, Reserved Powers.
11. Those powers that are shared by both the Federal and the State governments are called, Concurrent powers, which deal with taxes, and laws.
12. The separation of powers and federalism helps to establish limits on the power of government.