

# Under the Golden Dome

A State House Tour Booklet



A project of the  
Vermont Secretary of State's Office

Designed by Aleah Starr and Maayan Cohen

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**Welcome to the Vermont State House!**

My name is Agriculture and I live on top of the golden dome of the State House. I hope you enjoy your visit and learn a lot about the place I call home!



**Did you know...?**

The statue of Agriculture was originally carved out of wood by Larkin Mead and was replaced by a copy created by Sergeant-at-Arms Dwight Dwinell in 1938. The Sergeant-at-Arms keeps order in the State House.

The State House dome was originally painted a terra cotta red and was not gilded until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The golden dome of the State House, with its iconic statue of Agriculture, represents Vermont's special history and the state motto "freedom and unity." It represents the important roles Vermonters played in the American Revolution and in the Civil War. And it represents how easy it is for Vermonters to have a say in state government.

We hope that this booklet and your tour of the Vermont State House will give you a feeling of pride in the state of Vermont. We want you to learn about how the founders of Vermont made sure that no person would be too powerful, so they created a government where many people had to work together to make laws. We also want you to see how the State House has changed over time and how the art work within the building highlights Vermont's special history. Most of all, we hope you have fun!

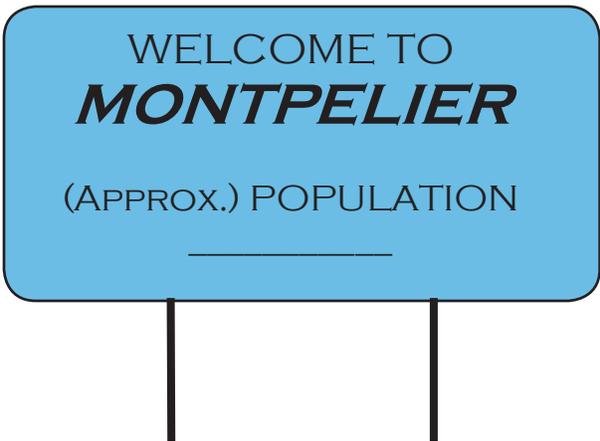
A special thanks to current and former Montpelier High School students, Aleah Starr, Allie Francis, and Maayan Cohen, who developed all of the materials and activities in this booklet.

Enjoy!

The Office of the Vermont Secretary of State

P.S. For more cool information about Vermont government, visit our Kids Page at [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us).

\*Teachers! Guess what? The Classroom Connection activities included in this booklet align with the Vermont Department of Education Grade Expectations!



You have been recruited to join the highway team assigned to paint the 'Welcome to Montpelier' sign! Can you do the math below to figure out the population of the capital city and paint it on the line where it belongs?

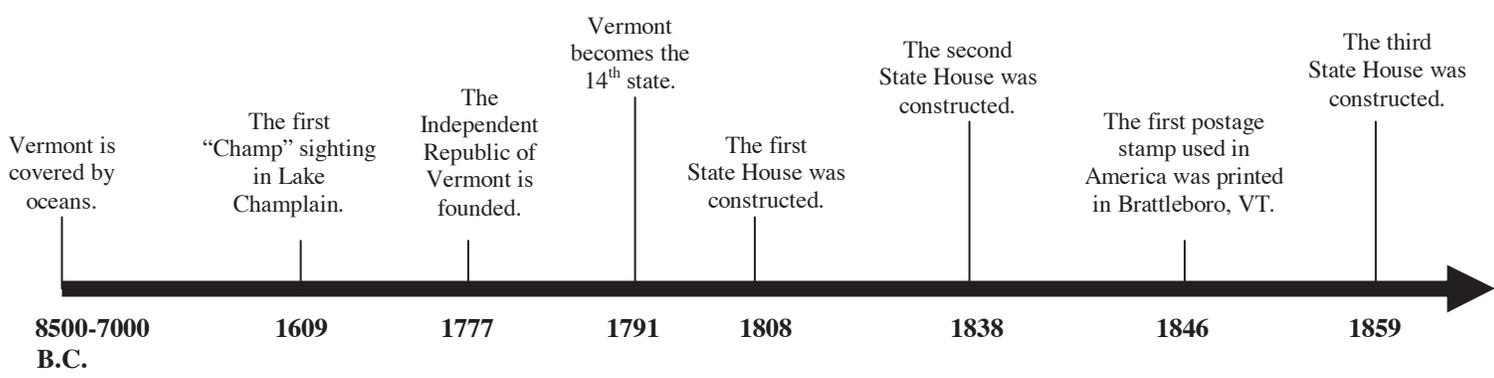
$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ +3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ \times 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ -8 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$
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**DID YOU KNOW...** that Montpelier became the state capital in **1805**. Many Vermont cities and towns wanted the State House in their community. Montpelier was finally chosen after the people living in Montpelier offered to provide the land for free and to help pay for the construction of the State House. Today, Montpelier is America's smallest state capital!



**Can you find and label:**

1. Vermont's largest city? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The state capital? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The city/town that you came from today! \_\_\_\_\_



The State House lobby is like a museum. Not only are there portraits of important Vermonters and a famous statue of an American president, but the marble floor contains evidence of Vermont's ancient history.



Can you believe that Vermont was once covered by an ancient ocean? As you walk through the lobby keep your eyes on the floor. Can you draw your favorite fossils on these tiles?



Pretend that today is your first day as the curator (the person who takes care of a museum or historical building) of the State House Portrait Collection and you want to be sure that you know everything there is to know about the famous Vermonters whose portraits are hanging on the wall. Take a walk through "portrait alley" and see how many questions you can answer!

### 1. ()\* The Gallery

1. Two of the governors are NOT wearing ties in their portraits. Who are they? Why do you think they chose not to wear ties?

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2. Who are the men painted in military uniform? Where are they from and what are they famous for?

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3. The portraits of two Vermont presidents are currently hanging in the lobby. What were their names and what years were they in office?

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After the second State House burned down in the winter of 1857, many renovations were made to ensure that the building, and all those who work in it, would be safe in the event of another fire. Knock on the pillars in the lobby. What do you notice? Can you tell that they are made of fireproof iron?

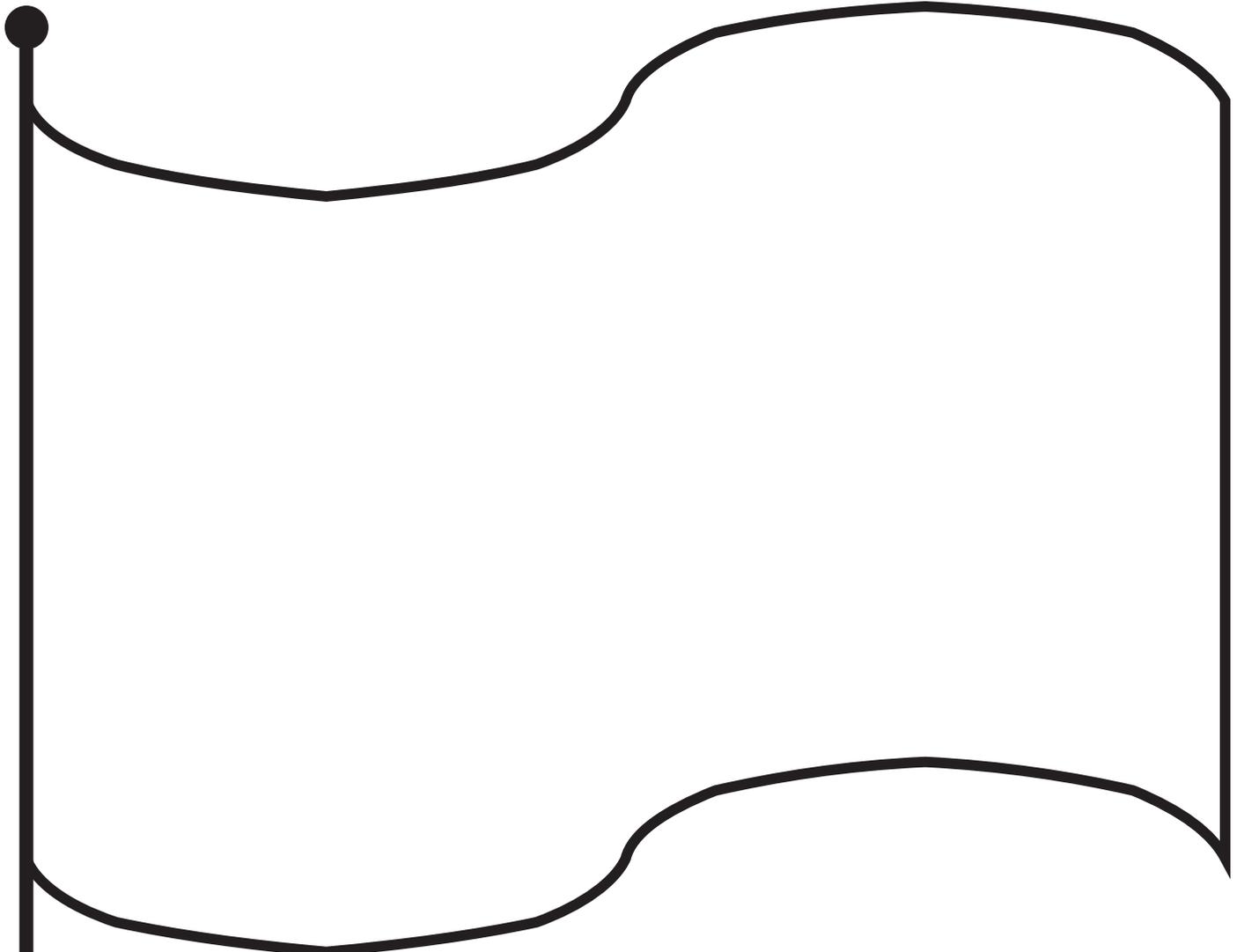


\* This 'Classroom Connection' circle corresponds to additional related activities, provided in the second half of this booklet, designed to help you take your State House tour experience back to the classroom with you.



# The Vermont Coat of Arms

The Vermont Coat of Arms shows pictures of the things that are important to both the history and future of our state. Draw the Vermont Coat of Arms in the blank flag below.



1. What is the state motto?

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2. In what rooms can you spot the Coat of Arms?

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3. Why is it important for legislators to see the Vermont Coat of Arms and think about the state motto as they do their work in the State House?

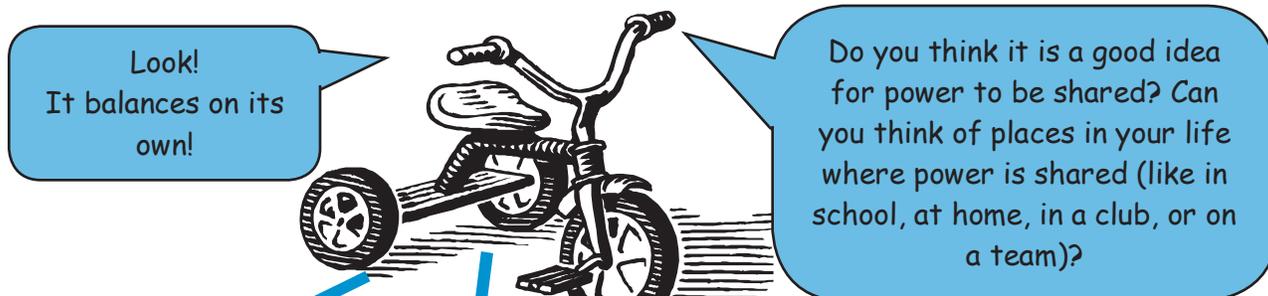
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## 2.0) The Balance of Powers



The founders of Vermont did not want any one person or group of people to have too much power. For this reason, the Vermont Constitution divides the government into three branches: the **executive**, **judicial**, and **legislative** branches. The people in each branch of government have different jobs to do, but they all must work together. The three branches of government create a balance of power, just like the three wheels on a tricycle!



**LEGISLATIVE**

**WHO:** The Vermont Legislature is made up of 150 members of the House of Representatives and 30 members of the Senate.

**WHAT:** Legislators pass new laws and decide how to spend our tax dollars.

**WHERE:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXECUTIVE**

**WHO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT:** The head of the executive branch runs state government and he or she decides whether to veto bills passed by the legislature.

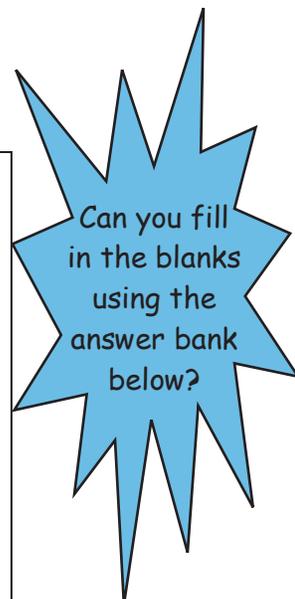
**WHERE:** The Vermont State House and the Pavilion Office Building.

**JUDICIAL**

**WHO:** Judges

**WHAT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE:** Vermont Supreme Court in Montpelier and courthouses across the state.

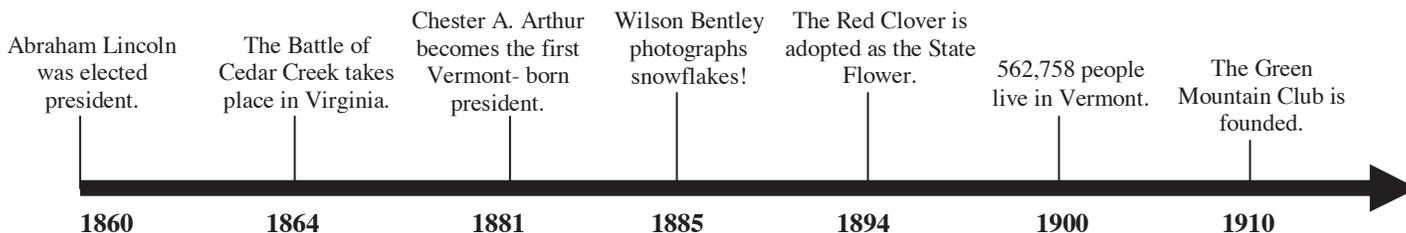


**Answer Bank: (put these words in the proper blanks above)**

*Governor*

*Vermont State House*

*Apply the laws to real situations and decide if a law is unconstitutional.*



# Legislative Chutes and Ladders

Climb the ladders to see how Vermont's House, Senate, and governor need to work together for an idea to become a law.

**2.** A bill that passes the House then goes to the Senate. The Senate sends the bill to a committee for discussion and then if the committee decides it is a good idea, the Senate will vote on it.

**1.** The House of Representatives sends the bill to a committee for discussion. If the committee decides it is a good idea, the House will vote on it.

**3.** The bill then goes to the governor who has the choice to sign or veto the bill, or the bill can become law without signature.

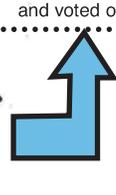
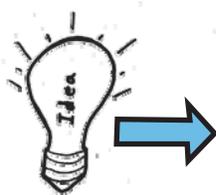


In the Legislature, an idea for a law is made into a "bill."

A "bill" can start in either the Senate or the House of Representatives, except for the budget (the bill that says how the tax dollars are to be spent), which must start in the House.

**4.** If the governor vetoes the bill the legislature can override the veto with a 2/3 majority vote.

**START HERE**



Bill is discussed, debated, and voted on in the Senate.

Bill is discussed, debated, and voted on in the House.

Bill is put on the governor's desk for an executive decision.

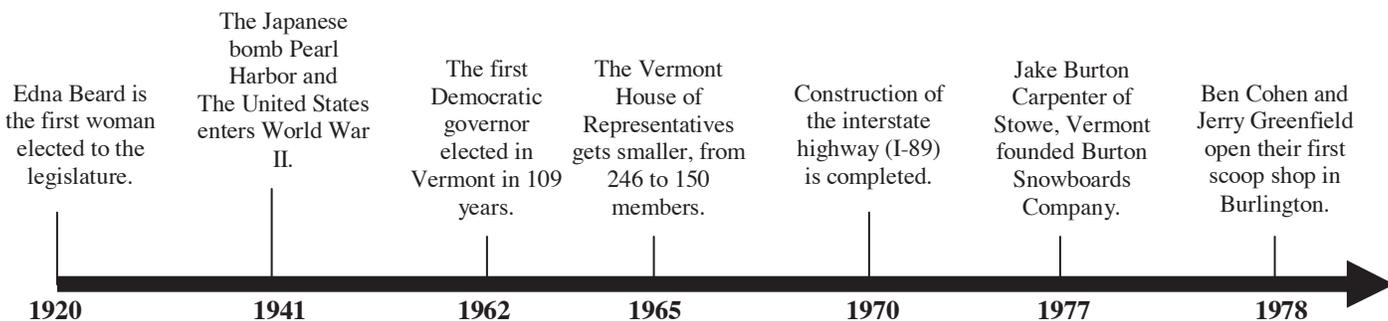
Two-thirds majority vote by the House and Senate to override the governor's veto!

FAILS TO PASS HOUSE

FAILS TO PASS SENATE

VETOED

**Bill Fails to Become Law**



# 3.() The Seat of Power

Most of the time a bill will become law if the House, the Senate, and the governor all agree it is a good idea. This is not easy to accomplish! Below are examples of bills that could be proposed in the legislature.

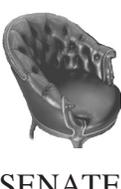
Notice the seats in the Senate Chamber. What do the chairs look like? How are they different from the chairs in the House? In the governor's office?

In this game, you can tell when a bill will pass by whether or not Agriculture is sitting in all of the chairs. Write 'Yes' in the blank after bills that will become laws and 'No' after bills that won't become laws.

**EXAMPLE:** Every school district must adopt a policy on school nutrition.


 HOUSE + 
 
 SENATE + 
 
 GOVERNOR = NO!

1. The school week will be shortened to four longer days.


 HOUSE + 
 
 SENATE + 
 
 GOVERNOR = \_\_\_\_\_

2. There will be no sales tax on books written for children and young adults.


 HOUSE + 
 
 SENATE + 
 
 GOVERNOR = \_\_\_\_\_

3. Schools will follow a year-round school calendar.


 HOUSE + 
 
 SENATE + 
 
 GOVERNOR = \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark College for students with learning disabilities opens in Putney.

Smoking is banned in all public buildings.

Jody Williams from Putney wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

Vermont legalizes civil unions for same sex couples.

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean runs for president.

Today!



# Meet the Legislators!

Legislators help decide what bills should become laws. Some bills make new rules that we all have to follow and other bills establish or change government programs and services. All of this can cost money, so the legislature also passes a budget that tells the governor and the treasurer how the taxpayer's money should be spent.

After reading about two Vermont Legislators, Ginny Lyons and Richard Westman, see if you can tell how they think some of our tax dollars should be spent.



Hi there! My name is Virginia Lyons and I am a Senator from Chittenden County. I represent communities that are very concerned about keeping our environment healthy for future generations, and keeping Vermonters healthy enough to enjoy the environment. From my seat in chair number 7, I hope to see legislation passed that will decrease pollution in our lakes and streams, and provide less polluting energy sources. When I am not working in the legislature, I serve as a part-time professor at Vermont State College. I love living in the beautiful state of Vermont and hope to keep it that way!



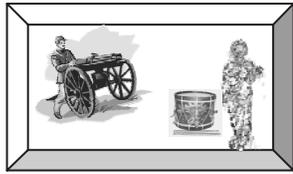
Hello! My name is Richard Westman and I was a Representative from Lamoille County. This is my 25th year serving as a Representative and sitting in seat number 122. I am very excited to be here. When it comes to important issues, I am most concerned about budget, health care, and transportation issues. I've chaired the House Appropriations Committee and am presently the Chair of the House Transportation Committee, where I have worked on these issues. Sustainable funding is almost always a vital part of any long term solution to the problems we face. During the rest of the year I am employed at the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC).



Draw a line from the \$ sign to the picture below that best describes the legislator's interests.



## 4. (C) Crossing the Creek



The *Battle of Cedar Creek* painting is 10 feet high and 20 feet wide!!!

\_\_\_\_\_ is a historical painting that describes a real battle that took place in Virginia in 1864. When the artist, \_\_\_\_\_, painted this picture eight years after the battle, he asked Vermonters who fought at Cedar Creek to pose for him. You are looking at the faces of real \_\_\_\_\_ who were members of the Old Vermont Brigade. Since there was no television back then, paintings like this one helped people imagine and understand events that happened during their lifetimes.

**The American Civil War (1861-1865)** was fought between the northern (The Union) and southern (The Confederate) states of the United States of America. The North and the South strongly disagreed over the issue of slavery. The Confederates wanted to break away from the northern states to form their own government. If the South broke away, they could rule themselves and keep slavery. The Union was led by President Abraham Lincoln. He was opposed to slavery. He also believed that it would be bad for the country to allow states to break away from the United States.

The Union eventually won the war. This meant that the southern states stayed part of the United States. The United States Constitution was amended to give slaves their freedom.

Look closely at the bottom area of the painting. Can you find a split rock and a cannonball? The Vermont artist, Julian Scott, painted a split rock and a cannonball in several of his Civil War paintings. On the lines below, write about why you think he did this.



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# CLASSROOM CONNECTION 1. (C)

## The Gallery

(Aligns with Vermont Grade Expectations H&SS3-4:14, 15)

As you look at the portraits on the wall, think about what it means to be "worthy of recognition." What kind of accomplishments would earn someone a place in the State House gallery? What types of qualities and achievements do Vermonters value the most? What would you like people to remember you for?

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Imagine that your portrait is hanging in the State House "Hall of Fame." What would you be famous for? What would your portrait look like? Draw your future portrait below and list some of your accomplishments!



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hometown:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accomplishments:**

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## CLASSROOM CONNECTION 2. (C)

# The Balance of Powers



Vermont's government is divided into the executive branch, the judicial branch, and the legislative branch. On the line next to each picture, **write** the branch of government that each individual represents. Keep in mind that you may need to use a branch of government more than once! After filling in the blanks, **draw** a line connecting each person on the left with the room or building where they worked!



**Chief Justice  
Albert Barney  
(1974 to 1982)**

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**Governor  
Madeleine M. Kunin  
(1985 to 1991)**

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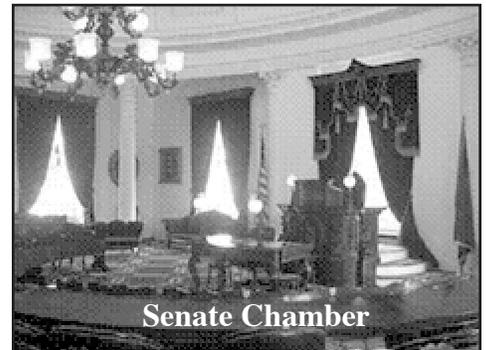
**Speaker of the House  
Ralph Wright  
(1985 to 1995)**

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**Senate President Pro Tem  
Peter Shumlin  
(1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2010)**

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# CLASSROOM CONNECTION 3. (C)

## Take YOUR Seat!

(Aligns with Vermont Grade Expectations H&SS3-4:14, 15, 16)

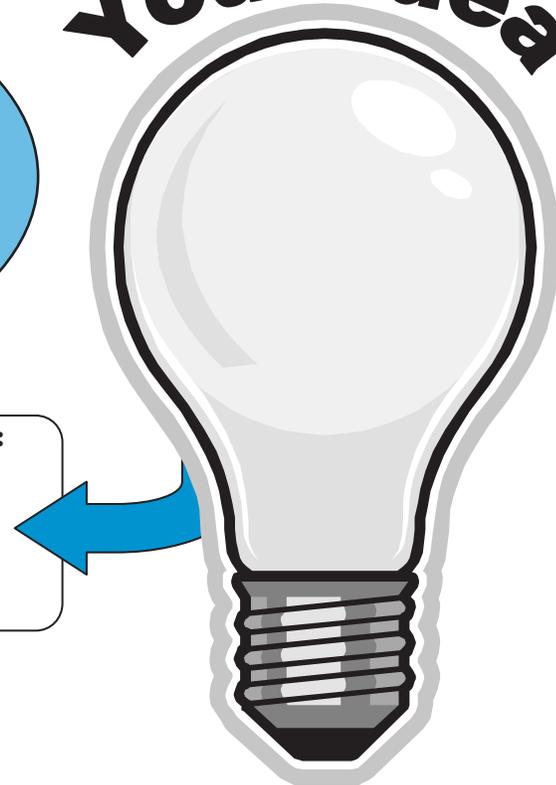
The legislative process begins with an **idea**. Can you think of things to make your school or your community a better, safer, or a more beautiful place to live? Believe it or not, **your** idea could turn into a bill passed by the Senate and the House, and signed by the governor. Think for a moment and then write your idea in the lightbulb!



Share your idea with your legislator. Visit [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us) to find out who represents your town.

1. Write their contact information in the box.
2. Use the space below to draft a letter to your legislator!

# Your Idea



Write your legislator's contact information here:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

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Sincerely,

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# Vermont Vocabulary Cryptogram



Use the definitions on the right and what you learned during your visit to the State House to fill out the vocabulary on the left. Use the numbers below the blanks to fill out the key and help you in your vocabulary voyage!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6				9				18						17						19					

    A    E    O    U    E  
12 10 6 10 9 4 17 19 12 9

    U    I    A    E    A  
19 22 18 15 6 2 9 14 6 1

    I    A    E    A  
11 18 15 6 2 9 14 6 1

    E    E    E    A    I    E  
14 9 20 14 9 12 9 22 10 6 10 18 25 9

    E    E    E  
14 9 20 14 9 12 9 22 10

    E    A    O  
12 9 22 6 10 17 14

    O    I    U    E  
15 17 22 12 10 18 10 19 9 22 10 12

    O    E  
25 17 10 9

    E    E    U    I    E  
9 24 9 15 19 10 18 25 9

    O    E    O  
26 17 25 9 14 22 17 14

    I  
11 18 1 1

    A  
1 6 5

    U    E  
11 19 7 26 9 10

    A    E  
10 6 24 9 12

    U    I    I    A  
16 19 7 18 15 18 6 1

    E    I    A    I    E  
1 9 26 18 12 1 6 10 18 25 9

The meeting place of the legislature.

A legislature that has only one chamber (only a House or a Senate).

A legislature that has two chambers (both a House and Senate).

A person who serves in the house is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Legislators \_\_\_\_\_ the people in their district.

A person who represents a population and serves in the Senate.

A group of people who are being represented.

To take part in an election.

The governor is in the \_\_\_\_\_ branch of government.

The head of the executive branch of government.

Before a law becomes a law it is a \_\_\_\_\_.

A rule that governs the people.

The \_\_\_\_\_ describes how taxes can be spent by the government.

Money paid by the people to pay for the expenses of government.

The \_\_\_\_\_ branch determines if laws are constitutional.

Bills are debated in the \_\_\_\_\_ branch of government.

# Answer Page

## Welcome to Montpelier! Page 1

Montpelier population approx.: 8,035

1. Burlington
2. Montpelier
3. \*The town/city in which you came from!

## The Vermont Coat of Arms Page 3

1. State Motto:  
Freedom and Unity

2. Rooms with a Coat of Arms:  
House Chamber, Senate Chamber,  
Cedar Creek Room, Card Room,  
and the Governor's office

3. To remind them of what is  
important to Vermonters (agriculture,  
the environment, freedom, and unity).

## The Gallery Page 2

1. Governor Dean and Governor Kunin are not wearing ties.
2. **Admiral George Dewey**, of Montpelier, led his crew at the battle of Manila, sinking a Spanish ship with no loss of life for the U.S.. He is the only person in U.S. history to have attained the rank of Admiral of the Navy, the most senior rank in the United States Navy. Rear Admiral of the U.S. Navy, **Charles Clark**, of Bradford was one of the most celebrated Navy captains of the Spanish American War.
3. Chester Arthur (Fairfield, VT), 1881-1885  
Calvin Coolidge (Plymouth, VT), 1923-1929

## The Balance of Powers Page 4

Where: Vermont State House

Who: Governor

What: Apply the laws to real situations and decide if a law is unconstitutional.

## The Seat of Power Page 6

1. No!
2. Yes!
3. No!

## Meet the Legislators Page 7

Virginia Lyons:



Richard Westman:



## Crossing the Creek Page 8

The Battle of Cedar Creek is a historical painting that describes a real battle that took place in Virginia in 1864. When the artist, Julian Scott, painted this picture eight years after the battle, he asked Vermonters who fought at Cedar Creek to pose for him. You are looking at the faces of real Vermonters/soldiers who were members of the Old Vermont Brigade. Since there was no television back then, paintings like this one helped people imagine events that happened during their time.

Key Concepts: The split rock represents the division between the northern and southern United States during the Civil War. The cannon ball is used to symbolize war and battle.

## Classroom Connection 2: The Balance of Powers Page 10

Chief Justice Barney -	Judicial branch, draw line to Supreme Court
Governor Kunin -	Executive branch, draw line to Governor's Office
Speaker Wright -	Legislative branch, draw line to House of Representatives
President Pro Tem Shumlin -	Legislative branch, draw line to Senate Chamber

## Vermont Vocabulary Cryptogram Page 14

1. state house
2. unicameral
3. bicameral
4. representative
5. represent
6. senator
7. constituents
8. vote
9. executive
10. governor
11. bill
12. law
13. budget
14. taxes
15. judicial
16. legislative

# Tour Notes



## Additional Resources

### Vermont:

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

[www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us)

### National:

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

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

<http://clerkkids.house.gov>

[www.congressforkids.net](http://www.congressforkids.net)

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

<http://thomas.loc.gov/teachers>

**The Office of the  
Vermont Secretary of State**

Redstone Building

26 Terrace Street Montpelier, VT 05609-1101

Tel: 802-828-2363 Fax: 802-828-2496

**[www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us)**

