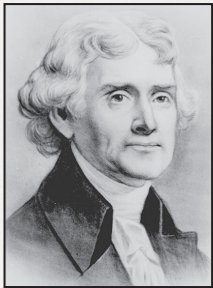


HANDBOOK ON CITIZENSHIP

CHAPTER 4

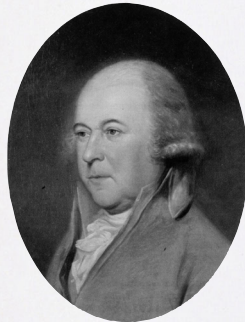
Uncle Sam Needs You!



Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams rarely agreed on anything, but they respected each other and admired how each was an ideal citizen dedicated to serving his country. Are we continuing their tradition of being ideal citizens?

Before we can answer that, it is important to know that the Founders of our country felt strongly that government existed only to protect people's rights. They did not want the government to be more powerful than the people. That is why they created a limited government. To **limit** power, the duties of the government are spread among three branches, and each branch has a check on the other two branches. Also, the Constitution says exactly what powers the government has. All other powers belong to the people. Missouri set up its



John Adams

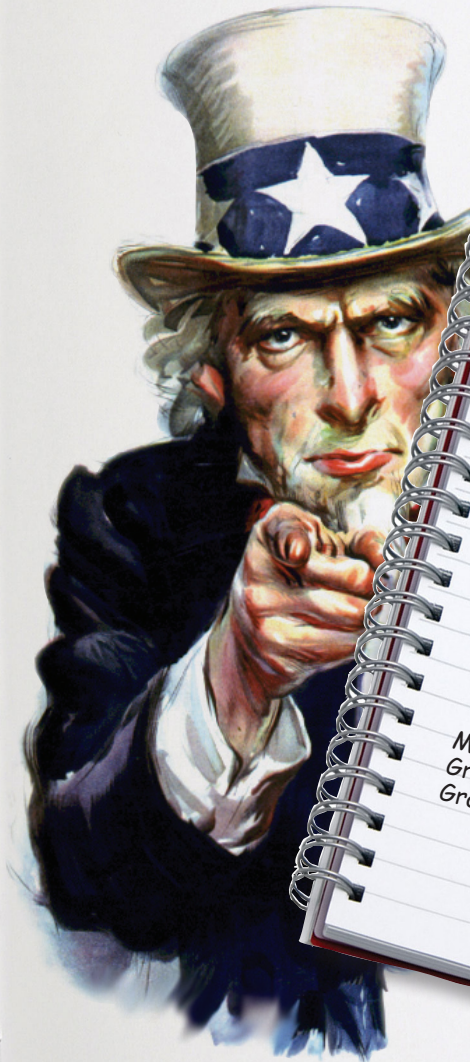
government this way, too.

But the Founders also knew that it was going to take energetic citizens to make sure the government stayed limited.

Energetic citizens get involved with their

Some ways to keep a check on government:

- Vote.
- Know the candidates running for office.
- Communicate with elected officials.
- Learn about how government is supposed to work.
- Run for political office.
- Stay informed.



Classroom Activities:

Grades 4-6:

1. What do we mean by separation of powers and by checks and balances? Why is this so important?
2. Who do you know that is an ideal citizen? Why?

Grades 7-12:

1. Identify the various checks and balances in both the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions.
2. Name the various ways the government regulates your life and your environment. Are all of these regulations about protecting you and others?

Missouri Standards Alignment:
Grades K-8: SS3, SS6; 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 4.2; 1-A, 1-B, 1-C.
Grades 9-12: SS3, SS6; 4.2; 1-A, 1-B, 1-C.

government and let elected officials know when they are becoming too powerful. Throughout their lives, they continue to study about government and exercise their rights to vote and run for office. They keep watch to make sure the government stays **by the people and for the people**. They continue the tradition of being ideal citizens.