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# B-1.  Charts

Teachers can use charts to help students understand main concepts in both social studies and in reading. These graphic organizers are also a good idea for teachers to be able to check a student's comprehension about the subject at hand.
While a teacher is discussing the United States Government, for example, could make sure to write what he or she says on the board. In addition, to simply telling the students about the three branches of government, the teacher should draw charts on the board for the students so that the students are able to visually organize the concepts in their heads and so that the students can refer and add on to the concepts as the students learn more about the topic.

| The Constitution |
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| Legislative Branch | Executive Branch | Judicial Branch |
| --- | --- | --- |

| The Senate |
| --- |

| The President of the United States of America | The Supreme Court |
| --- | --- |

| The House of Representatives | The Vice President of the United States of America | Smaller Courts |
| --- | --- | --- |

## B-2. Using the Internet to Help Students Visually Understand Concepts

Having the students use the internet is especially helpful to students who are deaf because they are able to access pictures to help them better understand important or confusing concepts.

The teacher should try to gain access to a computer with an internet every two or three students that the teacher will be instructing. The teacher should direct the students to go to the following web pages so that they will have a better understanding of the branches of the US government and the checks and balances between the three branches.

A simple web site for students just learning about the government is as follows:

http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html

A more complex web sight for understanding the exact parts of each branch of government is as follows:

http://bensguide.gpo.gov/files/gov_chart.pdf

In order for students to learn the best, they should be held accountable for reading and learning from the web site. A good way to do this is to have students fill out a worksheet or simply answer questions like the following to make sure that they are taking in information from the web site. However, the students should have some time to navigate throughout the web site and take in information before they start working on their worksheets so that they feel comfortable with the web site and its contents.

What are the three branches of the US government?

Why is each branch important to the government?

What are the two branches of the Legislative Branch?

What document do all three branches of the government have to abide by?

Why is it so important for the branches of government to be able to have checks and balances on each other?

- If the teacher does not have access to that many computers, it may be a good idea to have half or one-quarter of the class go to work on the computers one day while the rest go on another day.

# B-3.  Family Tree

The relationships between people may also be confusing for a student that is deaf when the teacher cannot verbally explain them to the student. Thus, it is important for teachers to remember that they can use simple family trees to help a student visualize how complex families and dynasties are interrelated.

A teacher who is teaching about British History might find it helpful to use a family tree like the following to give to students. After the students have had time to look over the tree, the teacher should work with the students to add important information to the tree so that the student remembers the information about each member in the tree. These are especially helpful in allowing a student to understand confusing lines of succession in monarchies. Here is an example of a chart that describes a particularly confusing time period of the British monarchy from Henry VII of England to James I of England (a.k.a. James VI of Scotland).

(CREATE A MONARCHIAL CHART)

Important information about the persons on the tree includes:

Arthur - Dies early in his kingship

Henry VIII- Marries Arthur's widow, Katherine of Aragon and they have a child who will later become Mary 1 of England. He becomes angry with the Pope when he is not able to divorce Katherine and marry Anne Boleyn. Thus, he begins the Anglican Church. He and Anne Boleyn have a child who will later become Elizabeth I of England. Henry beheads Anne and Marries Jane Seymour who bears him the child Edward who will become Edward VI of England. Jane dies in childbirth and Henry marries Anne of Cleves. He divorces Anne and marries Catherine Howard. He beheads Catherine Howard and marries Catherine Parr.

Margaret- Marries James IV Stewart of Scotland and they have a child James IV who marries into the French throne and they have Mary Queen of Scots.

Edward VI- dies early in his kingship and his only real contribution to the kingdom is the common book of prayers.

Mary 1- She is Catholic and forcefully converts her kingdom back to Catholicism. She dies childless.

Elizabeth I- Elizabeth converts her kingdom back to the Anglican Church and adopts the common prayer book that her brother had adopted during his reign. However, Elizabeth has some religious tolerance for Catholics. Her reign is the golden age. However, to keep herself in power she refuses to marry and dies with out a child.

Mary Queen of Scots- Mary is catholic and was brought mainly up in France. Her kingdom is Calvinist. Thus she has major cultural and religious barriers between her and her kingdom. Mary marries Henry Lord Darnly and they have a child named James who will become James I of England and James VI of Scotland. Mary is beheaded by Elizabeth when Mary was forced to flee from Scotland to England from her own countrymen.

James 1 and VI- becomes king of England alter Elizabeth I dies with no heir and thus unites the kingdoms of Scotland and England.