

# Introduction

## •Ike Ed staff welcomes students and bridges topics of Constitution Day, the Executive Branch, and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Welcome to the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home for this very special American day. I can only imagine how proud Dwight D. Eisenhower is to have us all gathering here to honor and celebrate the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, as well as to commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of our land, the U.S. Constitution. It was the ideas in that document that he commanded hundreds of thousands of troops to put their lives on the line to uphold. It was the laws in that document that he swore to enforce as President of the United States. Let's get started by standing, putting our hands over our hearts, and demonstrating our patriotism by reciting the pledge of allegiance. (led by student)

Thank you. (Take a seat.) I want you each to look at the kids around you. How many of you think you are sitting among a future world leader or President of the United States? How many think it will be you? We are so lucky to be part of the same state and type of community that has raised a child to become just that. You are sitting on the same ground where he played with his school friends. As a child, Ike did not expect to grow up to be a future world leader or President of the United States, but he did have the utmost respect for our country's ideals and Constitution, and showed that through his actions as a citizen, soldier and, of course, as the president of our country. All around the world, people think of Dwight D. Eisenhower as the ideal example of an American citizen.

The Constitution is the framework for our country's government, and for the relationship of our federal government with the states and citizens. Let's talk a little more about Eisenhower's connection to the Constitution. The Founding Fathers who created the Constitution wanted to make sure our government did not allow one person to have too much control, so they set up three branches of government to provide a separation of powers. Each branch has its own responsibilities, but they also work together for the good of the people. All three of the branches must work together. No branch has too much power because of checks and balances. Lets examine them: (Point to posters displayed around room.)

### **Legislative**

Congress  
\*Makes laws

### **Executive**

The President  
\*Carries out laws

### **Judicial**

The Supreme Court  
\*Evaluates laws



Let's review. (Have six students come up front and give them signs that fit together like puzzle pieces. The Legislative Branch (student holds sign up) makes laws (student holds sign up and fits it together with first sign. Repeat with Executive and Judicial branches.) Now, say it with me as the students hold the signs up again, one at a time. (Repeat for a third time.)

Great! Who can tell me which branch Eisenhower lead? (Executive) That's right. Eisenhower was the President of the United States, and therefore the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government.

Now, you are going to rotate through different activities with your groups that will teach you more about the Executive Branch. I will meet you all back here at the end of our activities.