Unit 4: Political Ideology and the Legislative Branch

Essential Questions:

* What factors influence our political ideology?
* How does Congress interact with other branches of government to make laws? What is the effect of a divided government?
* How does a bill become a law? Who do legislators rely on to help them develop appropriate legislation?
* The decision making process for Congress members is quite complex; what factors influence their decisions and what ideals should guide their decisions?

Textbook: Chap. 5, 10-1

Know these key terms and their significance:

- Political ideology (liberal, conservative, libertarian, etc.):

-Factors of political socialization (family, school, media, etc.):

-Political parties (Democrats/Republicans):

-Tea Party:

-Factors that influence party affiliation (age, gender, race, etc.):

-Bill

-Filibuster

-Constituents

-Incumbents

-Logrolling

-Gerrymandering

-Pork

-Trustee model of representation

-Delegate model of representation

-Bipartisanship/partisanship

-Bicameral legislature

-Checks and balances with the other two branches

Be able to explain:

-Key differences between liberals and conservatives (review worksheets)

-The political spectrum (simple and advanced version)

-Types of committees and what they do

-Leadership roles in the House and Senate (Speaker, Majority Leader, etc.)

-Demographics of Congress and who holds the power in Congress (how Congress is structured)

-Differences between the House and Senate and how the bicameral (two house) legislature influences the lawmaking process

-Steps of how a bill becomes a law