

Chapter 11: Powers of Congress

Opener

Lecture Notes

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

“Though the President is Commander in Chief, Congress is his commander,... this is not a Government of kings... but a Government of the people, and... Congress is the people.”

-Rep. Thaddeus Stevens (1867)



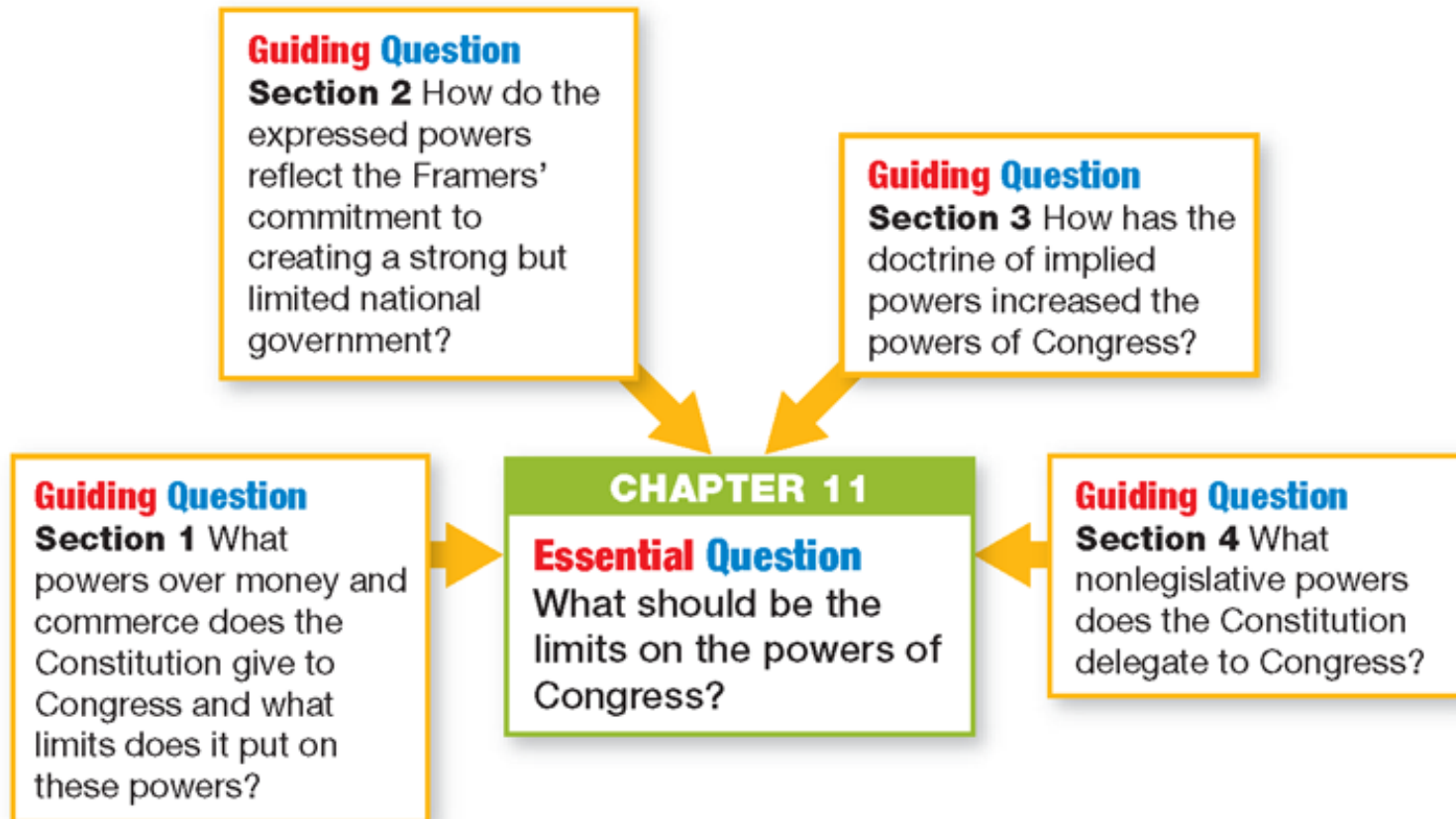
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Congress is his commander; . . . this is not
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people, and . . . Congress is the people.”

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Photo: Members of the House of Representatives are sworn in.

▶ Essential Question

- What should be the limits on the powers of Congress?



▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 1: The Expressed Powers of Money and Commerce
 - What powers over money and commerce does the Constitution give to Congress and what limits does it put on these powers?
 - Congress can coin and print money, tax income and imported goods and regulate interstate and foreign commerce, but cannot tax exports or regulate within a state.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 2: The Other Expressed Powers
 - How do the expressed powers reflect the Framers' commitment to creating a strong but limited National Government?
 - The Constitution grants Congress a wide range of powers, but none of these powers are absolute.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 3: The Implied Powers
 - How has the doctrine of implied powers increased the powers of Congress?
 - The Necessary and Proper Clause has been interpreted in a broad fashion to grant Congress many powers not granted specifically in the Constitution.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 4: The Nonlegislative Powers
 - What nonlegislative powers does the Constitution delegate to Congress?
 - Congress can propose constitutional amendments, impeach officials, approve appointments and treaties, and perform certain electoral duties.