These two relief carvings on the outside of the Nebraska State Capitol represent the foundations of our judicial system in events that occurred in past civilizations. Modern governments and citizens can learn from how people lived and governed themselves in the past.

1. How do the activities in these two drawings remind you of a scene from a modern courtroom?

2. Why is it better for a government to hold trials to determine guilt or innocence and then punishment than for citizens to respond to crimes themselves?

3. Why is it important for members of a jury to be fair and unprejudiced before they begin a trial?

4. Who can be members of a jury? How are they selected?
These two relief carvings on the outside of the Nebraska State Capitol represent the foundations of the executive branch in events that occurred in past civilizations. Modern governments and citizens can learn from how people lived and governed themselves in the past.

1. In these two drawings what are these people doing?

2. In a democracy, who determines who will be the president or governor? Why is it important for all people in a democracy to vote in the election?

3. In a democracy, do citizens have a right to require their leaders act according to their wishes? How can we be sure they do?
These two relief carvings on the outside of the Nebraska State Capitol represent the foundations of the legislative branch in events that occurred in past civilizations. Modern governments and citizens can learn from how people lived and governed themselves in the past.

1. What is happening in these two drawings?

2. Why is it important to have laws to govern how people live together?

3. How do citizens participate in making laws?

4. How does a person become a lawmaker?
MEN SHOULD NOT THINK IT SLAVERY TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE RULE OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR IT IS THEIR SALVATION — Aristotle

LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONS SPRING FROM THE MORAL DISPOSITIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE — Plato


1. What is the purpose of a constitution?

2. Is it possible for citizens to make changes in the constitution? How can Nebraskans change their constitution?
Match the branch of government with the historic event on the exterior of the Capitol. Draw a line from the branch to the event.

**JUDICIAL**

The Kansas-Nebraska Bill (1854) - The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 established the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and opened this part of the Louisiana Purchase to settlement and ten years later the Transcontinental railroad was begun.

**EXECUTIVE**

The Judgement of Solomon (c. 970 BC) - Solomon resolved to settle the dispute by cutting the baby in half, knowing the true mother would give up the baby to save it, and Israel saw the wisdom of God was in him to do judgement.

**LEGISLATIVE**

Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation - January 1, 1863
Lincoln proclaims all persons held as slaves in the rebelling states shall be free.
CITIZEN’S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These two paintings in the Governor’s Reception Room of the Nebraska State Capitol represent the rights and responsibilities of the citizens in a democracy. Representative democracy relies on the involvement of citizens in the government. Study the actions of the people in the paintings closely.

1. What freedoms guaranteed by the first amendment are the citizens in the image on the left exercising?

2. What civic responsibility are the citizens on the right exercising?

3. How can citizens use the activities pictured above to involve themselves in the promotion of laws?