https://www.nationalpriorities.org/

Click on Federal Budget 101, Federal Budget Process

As you read each section, answer these questions:

1. According to the Constitution, who has the “power of the purse”?

2. What is meant by “appropriations”?

3. What are the five key steps in the federal budget process?

4. When are “continuing resolutions” passed? What do they do?

5. What are “supplemental appropriations”?

Go to: “Where does the money come from”

6. What are the main sources of revenue for the federal government?

7. According to the 2015 budget, how much revenue was the federal gov’t expected to receive? What was the biggest source?

8. When does the federal gov’t have to resort to borrowing? How do they get this money?

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Go to: “Where does the money go?”

9. List five programs covered in “discretionary spending.”

10. List at least two programs covered in “mandatory spending.”

11. Looking at the graphs towards the bottom of this section, what do we know about “tax breaks” compared to “discretionary spending”?

Go to: “Borrowing and the Federal Debt”

12. Explain the difference between the terms “deficit” and “federal debt”.

13. In the section entitled, Debt Held by the Public, which foreign countries hold the largest portion of our debt? How much do we owe each of them?

14. What is the “debt ceiling” and why does it exist?

15. Explain the arguments for limiting the national debt, and then explain why some think deficit spending is crucial.

--The End--