

Foundations of American Government

Unit 1

Unit Guide

Sections 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 3.2

Foundations of American Government	Vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalists <input type="checkbox"/> authoritarian <input type="checkbox"/> boycott <input type="checkbox"/> budget <input type="checkbox"/> common law <input type="checkbox"/> compact <input type="checkbox"/> delegate (N) <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral College <input type="checkbox"/> Enlightenment <input type="checkbox"/> federalism <input type="checkbox"/> Federalists <input type="checkbox"/> legislature <input type="checkbox"/> majority rule <input type="checkbox"/> mercantilism <input type="checkbox"/> natural rights <input type="checkbox"/> precedent <input type="checkbox"/> public policy <input type="checkbox"/> repeal <input type="checkbox"/> Social Contract <input type="checkbox"/> totalitarian	Essential Standards CE.C&G.1: Analyze the foundations and development of American government in terms of principles and values. CE.C&G.1.1: Explain how tensions over power and authority led America's founding fathers to develop a constitutional democracy CE.C&G.1.2: Explain how the Enlightenment and other contributing theories impacted the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights to help promote liberty, justice, and equality CE.C&G.1.3: Evaluate how debates on power and authority between Federalists and Anti-Federalists have helped shape government in the United States over time CE.C&G.4: Understand how democracy depends upon the active participation of citizens CE.C&G.4.2: Explain how the development of America's national identity derived from principles of the Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, and Bill of Rights
	Essential Understandings Students will understand that... 1) tensions over power and authority led to the founding fathers to develop a constitutional democracy. 2) democracy depends upon the active participation of citizens. 3) a unique American identity emerged from the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. 4) Enlightenment thinking and ancient government structures are evident in the Declaration of Independence, The US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.	
	Language Objectives 1) Students will identify the events in early American history that led to the creation of the American Democracy by individually creating a timeline. (CE.C&G.1.1) 2) Students will describe the ways that Enlightenment ideas affected the writing of the Declaration of Independence by identifying specific passages within the document and the philosophy or philosopher who inspired it in a small-group discussion. (CE.C&G.1.2) 3) Students will evaluate the many ways that the ideas found in the Declaration of Independence have led to the formation of the American national identity by completing a class discussion on examples of those ideas in modern American life. (CE.C&G.4.2) 4) Students will work individually to highlight a specific weakness of the Articles of Confederation by creating a political cartoon. (CE.C&G.1.1) 5) Students will work with a partner to identify the differing viewpoints of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in a graphic organizer. (CE.C&G.1.3)	
	Essential Questions 1) What kind of government would be best for a large country, small country, town, etc.? Why? 2) What rights and freedoms should all people have? 3) What is the appropriate relationship between citizens and the government? 4) What should citizens be willing to give up for an effective government? 5) What should happen to citizens or the government if they are not doing their part in the Social Contract? 6) Why did the founding fathers establish a constitutional democracy? 7) How does the government ensure natural rights for all citizens? 8) Why were the ideas of justice, equality, and liberty important to the founding fathers? 9) What is America's national identity in terms of the role of government and its relationship to citizens? 10) How has the Declaration of Independence played a role in the development of America's national identity? 11) Why did the founding fathers establish a constitutional democracy? 12) In what ways did the Articles of Confederation attempt to correct the problems of the colonial period? 13) Why were the ideas of justice, equality, and liberty important to the founding fathers? 14) Why was compromise necessary in the creation of the US Constitution? 15) What is America's national identity in terms of the role of government and its relationship to citizens?	

By the end of the unit, you should have mastered the following:

Key People	How did the following people help shape the ideas that contributed to American government? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Federalists • Federalists • John Locke • Baron de Montesquieu • Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Key Events	How did the following events contribute to the formation of American Government? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitutional Convention • The Enlightenment • The Great Awakening • The Great Compromise
Key Documents	How did the following documents contribute to the ideas of American government? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles of Confederation • Magna Carta • English Bill of Rights • Mayflower Compact • Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
Vocabulary	Identify the significance of each term in the context of the Foundation of American government. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Law • Separation of Powers • Social Contract