

## Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

**Tuesday.** Which quote from the Preamble means that it is the government's job to keep the country safe?

- A. Provide for the common defense
- B. Promote the general welfare
- C. To form a more perfect union
- D. Secure the blessings of liberty

# The Constitution

## Unit 2

Unit 2 Essential Question: Evaluate the extent to which the Constitution succeeds in its goals. Support your argument with at least 3 sources.

## Unit 2.1 Essential Question: Why was the Constitution created?

- Constitutional Convention
- George Washington
- James Madison
- Compromise

# What was the **Constitutional Convention**?

Began in 1787 - Goal to amend the Articles of Confederation

Why might they want to amend it?

Will amending it be easy?

What might they have to do instead?

# Who went to the **Constitutional Convention**?

- Representatives from all states (except RI)
- No women, African Americans, or Native Americans
- Ben Franklin, **George Washington**, **James Madison (FotC)**, Alexander Hamilton

Why is it notable that only white males were invited?

# What were their first major decisions?

- George Washington will preside over meetings
- Each state gets 1 vote - majority wins
- All discussion meetings are secret
- \*\*ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION ARE OUT\*\*

What will they have to do now?

# What was left to be decided?

1. What will the structure of this government be?
2. Who will lead us?
3. Who will choose the leader?
4. Who controls commerce?
5. Will states have rights?

These issues caused division between delegates, forcing them to reach **compromises**.

# Essential Question: Why was the Constitution created?

To do:

Exit Ticket:

- A. Create a bubble map of the questions that the Constitutional Congress had left to answer. Add on at least 2 of your own bubbles off of each question that was left that you believe could be done to solve that issue.
- B. Determine which of those you feel the most confident about in your ideas, and write 3-5 sentences explaining to me why you feel that your idea on how to solve that issue is the best idea.



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**Wednesday.** Which quote from the Preamble means that it is the government's job to ensure that the people are given freedoms?

- A. Provide for the common defense
- B. Promote the general welfare
- C. To form a more perfect union
- D. Secure the blessings of liberty

## Unit 2.2 Essential Question: How did the compromises in the Constitution change America?

- Virginia Plan
- New Jersey Plan
- Connecticut Plan / The Great Compromise
- House of Representatives
- Senate
- 3/5ths Compromise
- Slave Trade and Commerce Compromise
- Electoral College
- Federalists
- Constitution
- Anti-Federalists
- Bill of Rights
- Ratify

# 1. How should each state be represented in Congress?

James Madison's **Virginia Plan**

- 3 Branches of Government
- Legislative Branch based on population
- Favored by big states

What are the big states during this time?

Why would the big states prefer this plan?

# 1. How should each state be represented in Congress?

William Patterson's **New Jersey Plan**:

- 3 Branches
- Unicameral legislature with equal representation - 2 per state
- Favored by smaller states

What are the smaller states during this time?

# How did they compromise?

The **Great Compromise** - the **Connecticut Plan**:

Bicameral Legislature:

1. **House of Representatives** - rep. based on pop.
2. **Senate** - equal rep. (2)

How is this a compromise?

Do you believe it to be fair?

2. Should slaves count as part of population or taxable property?

Southern states - Wanted to count slaves as population

Why might they want this?

2. Should slaves count as part of population or taxable property?

Northern states - Wanted to count slaves as taxable property

Why might they feel this way?

How did they compromise?

**3/5ths Compromise** - 3 out of every 5 slaves count towards representation and will be taxable property

How is this a compromise?

Do you believe it to be fair?



### 3. Should the federal government control interstate and foreign commerce?

Northern states: Congress should be able to regulate both

What benefits would it be to regulate both?

### 3. Should the federal government control interstate and foreign commerce?

Southern states: Congress should not regulate either

Feared taxes on goods and end to slave trade

Why might the end of the slave trade be devastating to the southern states?

# How did they compromise?

## Slave trade and commerce compromise:

- Congress can regulate both
- Could not tax exports
- Could not interfere with slave trade before 1808

## How is this a compromise?

## Do you believe it to be fair?

4. How should the nation's chief executive be chosen?

Congress chooses - states where the representatives choose their governor felt the President should be chosen the same way

4. How should the nation's chief executive be chosen?

Citizens choose: states where citizens elected the governor felt the President should be elected too

# How did they compromise?

## Electoral College:

- People vote in elections and states give their electoral votes to the candidate that wins their state
  - State's electoral votes = # of ppl in Congress
  - 270 electoral votes WINS

## What happened in the 2016 election?

270



**CLINTON**  
**215**



**TRUMP**  
**288**

BUSINESS INSIDER  
ELECTION 2016

## 5. Who should get more power - states or federal government?

### Federalists:

- Support new **Constitution**
- Federal gov should be supreme
- Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay

Why would a strong federal government be beneficial?



## 5. Who should get more power - states or federal government?

### Anti-Federalists:

- Opposed new **Constitution** without **Bill of Rights**
- Believed liberties would be taken away without **BoR**
- Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry

Why might a Bill of Rights be useful?

# How did they compromise?

## Bill of Rights:

- **Federalists** agreed to add **BoR** if **Anti-federalists** agreed to ratify
- Ratified in 1789!

## How is this a compromise?

## Do you believe it to be fair?

# Essential Question: How did the compromises in the Constitution change America?

To do:

Exit Ticket:

Choose one compromise that you think had the biggest impact on shaping America. Tell me in 3-5 sentences WHY you feel that this compromise was the most important.

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**Thursday.** Which of the following is a synonym for the word "Posterity" as it's used in the preamble of the Constitution?

- A. Government
- B. Faith
- C. Order
- D. Children

**Unit 2.3 Essential Question:** Explain the roles of the three parts of the Constitution.

- Elastic clause
- Cabinet
- Interpret
- Full Faith & Credit Clause
- Amendment
- Supremacy Clause

Complete the following worksheet in small groups by the end of the period:

[Constitution in Plain English Packet](#)

# Essential Question: Explain the roles of the 3 parts of the U.S. Constitution.

To do:

1. Complete the Packet using the Constitution in Plain English.
2. Exit Ticket: Which amendment do you think is the most important to your daily life? Write 3-5 sentences explaining to me why you feel that amendment is so important.

\*Elastic clause = grants Congress power to pass any law that is necessary and proper for carrying out their responsibilities

\*Cabinet = the President's group of trusted advisors

\*Interpret = the Supreme Court will explain the meaning of the Constitution

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**Friday.** Which of these best summarizes “promote the general Welfare” as it is used in the Constitution?

- A. Defend the nation
- B. Provide services to make life better
- C. Give free money
- D. Set goals

## Unit 2.4 Essential Question: Analyze how the principles in the Constitution protect the rights of citizens.

- Popular Sovereignty
- Limited Government (Unit 1)
- Federalism
- Expressed Powers
- Concurrent Powers
- Reserved Powers
- Separation of Powers (Unit 1)
- Legislative
- Executive
- Judicial



# What principles are included in the Constitution?

## Popular Sovereignty:

- People should have the right to rule themselves - Self gov't

## How do we see this in our modern government?

# What principles are included in the Constitution?

## Limited Government:

- Gov't should have limits on its power
  - Prevents majority from limiting the minority
  - Clearly stated in Article 1
  - Rule of Law - Everyone has to follow the law!

How do we see this in our modern government?

# What principles are included in the Constitution?

## Federalism:

- National and state gov't share power
- Laws may vary from state to state
- **Supremacy clause** says Constitution / National Gov't is supreme

How do we see this in our modern government?

In federalism, what powers are **EXPRESSED** to the national government?

- Maintaining an Army
- Declaring War
- Postal System
- Immigration
- Coining money

Why are these powers given solely to the federal

In federalism, what powers are **CONCURRENT** between the national government and state governments?

- Taxes
- Borrow Money
- Set up courts
- Prisons

How do you see this affecting your everyday life?

In federalism, what powers are **RESERVED** to the state governments?

- Trade within state
- Setting up schools
- Rules for marriage
- Licenses

How do you see this affecting your everyday life?

Why might these powers be left to the states?

# What principles are included in the Constitution?

## Separation of Powers:

- Government is divided into 3 branches
  - **Legislative** - makes laws
  - **Executive** - enforces laws
  - **Judicial** - interprets laws
- Keeps one group from having too much power

Who's idea was this?

**Essential Question:** Analyze how the principles in the Constitution protect the rights of citizens.

To do:

Exit ticket: Why is it Important? Chart



## Preamble to the N.C. Constitution

"We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain security thereof and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution."

**Monday.** Which quote from the NC Preamble does NOT state a goal of the NC Constitution?

- A. For the preservation of the American Union
- B. And the existence of our civil, political, and religious liberties
- C. For the more certain security thereof
- D. Grateful to Almighty God, the sovereign ruler of nations

Unit 2.5 Essential Question: Explain how the system of checks and balances protect the rights of Americans.

- Veto
- Override
- Unconstitutional
- Impeach
- Pardon
- Reprieve
- Amnesty
- Commute

Explain how the system of checks and balances protect the rights of Americans.

<https://prezi.com/uraggzlggevi/unit-2-constitution/>

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Essential Question: Explain how the system of checks and balances protect the rights of Americans.

To do:

1. Exit ticket: [North Carolina Constitution Worksheet](#)

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**Tuesday.** Which quote from the NC Preamble means that it is the government's responsibility to protect North Carolinians?

- A. For the preservation of the American Union
- B. And the existence of our civil, political, and religious liberties
- C. For the more certain security thereof
- D. Grateful to Almighty God, the sovereign ruler of nations

# Review Day

**Essential Question:** Evaluate the extent to which the Constitution succeeds in its goals. Support your argument with at least 3 sources.

1. Unit 2 Quiz
2. Unit 2 Review
3. Amendment Jeopardy

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**Wednesday.** Which quote from the NC Preamble states the government's responsibility to ensure North Carolina's positive participation in the United States?

- A. For the preservation of the American Union
- B. And the existence of our civil, political, and religious liberties
- C. For the more certain security thereof
- D. Grateful to Almighty God, the sovereign ruler of nations