**THE CONSTITUTION**

**Essential Questions:**

1. What were the achievements and failings of the Confederation government?
2. What major disagreements and compromises molded the final version of the Constitution?
3. How did the matter of slavery shape the creation of the Constitution?
4. How does the Bill of Rights reflect Anti-Federalist concerns raised during the ratification process?
5. How did the definition of citizenship in the new republic exclude Native Americans and African-Americans?

**Unit Target Goals:**

1. Why was the first government created under the new republic essentially weak and ineffective?
2. What were the strengths of the Articles of Confederation’s Northwest Ordinance?
3. Who was a nationalist in the late 1780s? Why did they believe a new national constitution was necessary?
4. Why was the Constitution described to be a “bundle of compromises”? Which were the most important compromises?
5. What were similarities and differences between the political views of the Federalist and Anti-Federalist parties?
6. What are the functions and powers of each branch of government?
7. Which amendments to the constitution are known as the Bill of Rights?

**Vocabulary:**

Articles of Confederation Popular Sovereignty Amendment

Northwest Ordinance Preamble Checks and Balances

Limited Government Shays Rebellion Bi-cameral Legislature

“necessary and proper” Constitutional Convention Federalism

Unwritten Constitution James Madison George Washington

Supremacy clause Delegated powers elastic clause

Alexander Hamilton Electoral college implied powers

Edmund Randolph Three branches of government concurrent powers

Thomas Jefferson State sovereignty reserved powers

Fugitive Slave Clause census Virginia Plan

New Jersey Plan due process of law Connecticut Plan

Judicial Review equal protection clause pocket veto

Commerce clause 3/5 compromise Separation of Power

Bill of Rights

**Readings:**

Foner, Give Me Liberty Chapter 7

Carol Berkin, *A Brilliant Solution*, Chapters 2-5

United States Constitution

Primary Source Documents: Federalist Papers #10 and #51

**Content Standards:**

**11.2 CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS (1763-1824) Growing political and economic tensions led the American colonists to declare their independence from Great Britain. Once independent, the new nation confronted the challenge of creating a stable federal republic.**

11.2c Weaknesses of the Article of Confederation led to a convention whose purpose was the revise the Articles of Confederation but instead resulted in the writing of a new Constitution. The ratification debate over the proposed Constitution led the Federalists to agree to add a bill of rights to the Constitution.

* Students will examine the weaknesses and successes of government under the Article of Confederation
* Students will explore the development of the Constitution, including the major debates and their resolutions, which included compromises over representation, taxation, and slavery
* Students will examine the structure, power, and function of the federal government as created by the Constitution, including key constitutional principles such as division of power between federal and state government, the separation of powers at the federal level, the creation of checks and balances, the sovereignty of the people, and judicial independence
* Students will examine the key points of debate expressed in the *Federalists Paper* and the *Antifederalist Papers*, focusing on the protections provided by the Bill of Rights and to whom they initially applied.

**Common Core Standards:**

Reading:

Standard 1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it: cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text

Standard 2 Determine central ideas or the themes of a text and analyze their development; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text

Writing:

Standard 1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence

Standard 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection. Organization, and analysis of content.

**Aim: What the strengths and weaknesses of the Confederation government? (Foner 258-267)**

Answer the following prompts, with details from Foner Chapter 7, Section 1.

1. Describe the structure of the Confederation government

1. Define the states’ role in this government
2. Define the powers given by the Articles of Confederation to the government
3. List successful Confederation policies and goals
4. List problems/weaknesses of the Confederation government and explain why these were an issue.
5. Evaluate the significance and effect of Shays’s Rebellion on the newly formed nation

**A Brilliant Solution Chapter 4: The Perils of Power**

Do Now: Define the following constitutional principles and provide an example from the text.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Concept** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Federalism |  |  |
| Checks & Balances |  |  |
| Popular Sovereignty |  |  |

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, what power did the states have and why?
2. What was the Virginia Plan? How did it challenge state sovereignty?

1. What were the potential dangers of a strong national government?

**What were the Founding Fathers’ perspectives on:**

|  |
| --- |
| **HUMAN NATURE** |
| **TYRANNY** |
| **POWER** |
| **THE PEOPLE** |
| **THE ROLE OF STATES** |
| **THE ROLE OF THE SENATE** |
| **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEGISLATURES AND THE EXECUTIVE BODY** |
| **FACTIONS, CABALS, AND POLITICAL PARTIES** |
| **COMPROMISING (BIPARTISANSHIP)** |
| **SLAVERY** |

**A Brilliant Solution Chapter 5: Schisms, Threats and Compromises**

**Aim: What were some of the major points of contention that arose out of the Constitutional Convention?**

Do Now: Provide examples of each term with textual evidence from chapter 5

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SCHISMS** | **THREATS** | **COMPROMISES** |
|  |  |  |

**A Brilliant Solution Chapter 5: Schisms, Threats and Compromises**

Directions: Explain how these points of contention influenced the Constitutional convention and how compromises were met to address these issues.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | How was this issue addressed by the convention? |
| Proportional Representation |  |
| Bicameral Legislature |  |
| Committee System |  |
| Limited Government |  |

**Aim: How did the matter of slavery shape the creation of the Constitution? (pages 270-273)**

Directions: Explain how each concept contributed to a disagreement about slavery

SLAVERY AND TAXATION:

FUGITIVE SLAVE CLAUSE:

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION COMRPOMISE:

SLAVE TRADE CLAUSE:

**Aim: How does the Bill of Rights reflect Anti-Federalist concerns raised during the ratification process?**

Directions: Define each of the parties’ views on the following major issues

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ISSUE | Anti-Federalist Perspective | Federalist Perspective |
| Vision for America |  |  |
| Protection of Liberty |  |  |
| Centralized Government |  |  |
| State Sovereignty |  |  |
| Westward Expansion |  |  |
| Style of government |  |  |
| Protection of property |  |  |
| Liberty |  |  |

**Bill of Rights**

Directions: List and define the protections granted to the people under the Bill of Rights

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |
| 6 |  |
| 7 |  |
| 8 |  |
| 9 |  |
| 10 |  |