

Unit 3 Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **English I, U.S. History I, U.S. History II**
Time Period: **November**
Length: **2 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In the wake of the Revolution the United States was adrift. The Articles of Confederation adopted in 1777 failed to provide a cohesive and sustainable structure of government. Difficulties with foreign policy and economic issues, particularly Shay's Rebellion shocked Americans into pursuing a change in the Articles. A Constitutional Convention (1787) convened in Philadelphia and led by George Washington peremptorily scrapped the Articles altogether and replaced them with a whole new government. The new Constitution was based on a system of checks and balances delegated between three co-equal branches of government, featuring a strong executive power, a bicameral legislative branch and a federal judiciary. After much compromise and the addition of a Bill of Rights the Constitution of the United States was adopted in 1787 and ratified in 1789.

Enduring Understandings

Enduring understandings are statements summarizing important ideas and core processes that are central to the content and have lasting value beyond the classroom. They synthesize what students should understand, not just know or do, as a result of studying a particular content area.

- The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights.
- Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of political institutions and practices of the new Republic.
- Efforts were made to balance the rights of individuals with the common good.
- A system of federalism created a tension between the states and the central government that assured that individual states would not become so powerful that the central authority was weakened and that the central authority would not become so powerful that the states would lose their autonomy.

Essential Questions

An essential question is the important, essential, essence of the learning. They signal genuine, important, and necessarily-on going inquiries into learning. Below are examples of essential questions used in Unit III, Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

- How did the shortcomings of the Articles lead to the Constitution?
- In what ways and to what extent did American democracy expand to include previously disenfranchised sections of society? What social, political and economic forces facilitated these changes?
- Evaluate the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights to the spread of democracy around the world.

- Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
- Compare and contrast the arguments of Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates, and assess their continuing relevance.
- Explain how judicial review made the Supreme Court an influential branch of government and assess the continuing influence of the Supreme Court.
- Explain why the ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout American history.

Standards/Indicators/Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

SWBAT understand the shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation

examine and understand the US Constitution

explain the events that led us to switch from one form of government to the other

analyze the significance of the Bill of Rights

understand the process for amending the US Constitution

comprehend the structure of the US Constitution

explain the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government

analyze the importance of Shay's Rebellion

compare and contrast the viewpoints of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

analyze the shortcomings of the Constitution in providing equality for minorities

SLO:

6.1.12.D.2.b Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.

WHST.9-10.1 6.1.12.A.2.d Develop claims and counterclaims that reflect the Federalists and Anti-Federalists positions during the ratification debates on issues such as federalism, factions, checks and balances, and the importance of independent judiciary.

WHST.9-10.1 6.1.12.A.2.d Develop claims and counterclaims regarding current day issues that reflect the Federalists and Anti-Federalists views on the role of the government.

RH.9-10.1 6.1.12.A.2.c Cite specific textual evidence from state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, and the U.S. Constitution, attending to date and origin of the information, to determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.

RH.9-10.2 Determine the central ideas in foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, making clear the relationship among key concepts, such as self-government, democratic government structures, and the protection of individual rights

WHST.9-10.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes. WHST.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.b	Compare and contrast state constitutions, including New Jersey's 1776 constitution, with the United States Constitution, and determine their impact on the development of American constitutional government.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.c	Compare and contrast the arguments of Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates, and assess their continuing relevance.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.d	Explain how judicial review made the Supreme Court an influential branch of government, and assess the continuing impact of the Supreme Court today.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.e	Examine the emergence of early political parties and their views on centralized government and foreign affairs, and compare these positions with those of today's political parties.
SOC.6.1.12.B.2.a	Analyze how the United States has attempted to account for regional differences while also striving to create an American identity.
SOC.6.1.12.C.2.a	Assess the effectiveness of the new state and national governments attempts to respond to economic challenges including domestic (e.g., inflation, debt) and foreign trade policy issues.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b	Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.d	Analyze arguments for new women's roles and rights, and explain why 18th-century society limited women's aspirations.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.e	Determine the impact of African American leaders and institutions in shaping free Black communities in the North.
SOC.6.1.12.CS2	Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.

Lesson Titles

Lesson titles refer to the learning titles that will occur during an individual lesson.

Shay's Rebellion Media Literacy assessment

Weakness of Articles of Confederation class discussion

Constitutional Convention internet research

Constitution Center internet analysis day

Federalists vs Anti-Federalists

Ratification

Examination of Document (3-5 days)

Connect to current events

Proposed or potential future amendments

21st Century Skills and Career Ready Practices

Communication and Collaboration

Information Literacy

Creativity and innovation

Media literacy

Global Perspectives

Civic Literacy

CAEP.9.2.12.C.1	Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.7	Examine the professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities for both employers and employees in the global workplace.

Inter-Disciplinary Connections

English

Sociology

LA.RH.9-10.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
LA.RH.9-10.2	Determine the theme, central ideas, key information and/or perspective(s) presented in a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
LA.RH.9-10.3	Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; draw connections between the events, to determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.
LA.RH.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including

	vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history and the social sciences; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
LA.RH.9-10.5	Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.
LA.RH.9-10.6	Compare the point of view of two or more authors in regards to how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.
SOC.9-12.2.3.2	Social statuses and roles
SOC.9-12.4.1.1	Privilege
SOC.9-12.4.1.2	Power
SOC.9-12.4.1.3	Racial and ethnic inequality
SOC.9-12.4.1.4	Class inequality
SOC.9-12.4.3.1	Distribution of power through social institutions

Instructional Strategies, Learning Activities, and Levels of Blooms/DOK

Learning Activities

- DBQ analysis on the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists using documents arguing for support and opposition of both the Articles and the Constitution (evaluating and creating)
- Socratic Questioning on the impact of the US Constitution (understanding application and analysis)
- Deductive/Inductive analysis to evaluate success of the Constitutional Convention (analysis and evaluation)
- Video analysis of Shay's Rebellion (analysis)
- Compare and contrast the structure of the Constitution compared to the Articles of Confederation (analysis and evaluation)
- Artifact analysis of The Constitution document, Washington's Chair, and Independence Hall (analysis)
- Linking historical events Constitutional rights then and now (understanding and analysis)
- Socratic Seminar on the strenghts and weaknesses of the Constitution (understanding, application, and analysis)
- Creation of the Articles of Confederation's "tombstone" (understanding, creation)
- Role play of the Constitutional Convention (knowledge and understanding)
- Delsea One
- SWAG

Modifications

At Risk Modifications

- Meetings or tutoring at Delsea One

- SWAG
- Calls to parents
- Verbal reminders during class tasks
- Contact guidance counselors
- Use comments section in gradebook for work student has missed
- Meeting with other teachers/coaches of student to develop a plan for improvement
- Contact administration
- Allow extra time for completion of homework dependent upon circumstances
- Delsea One
- SWAG

Formative Assessment

Warm-up:

Amendment re-writes

Founders bios

Anticipatory Set:

Constitutional or not activity

Discussion of impact on student's lives (ie locker searches, freedom of speech within school, saying fire in a movie theater or bomb on a plane)

Closure:

1 minute essay on how the Constitution impacts them.

Turn to your partner to discuss which amendment is the most important.

Summative Assessment

DBQ on the Constitution from Document Based Assessment for US History by Walch Publishing

Exam on the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

Quiz on the Bill of Rights

Quiz on the Constituional Convention

Project replacing the amendments' word with images

Marking Period Assessment for the first quarter.

Benchmark Assessments

Skills-based assessment

Reading responses

Writing responses

Alternative Assessments

Performance tasks

Project-based assignments

Problem-based assignments

Presentations

Reflective pieces

Concept maps

Case-based scenarios

Portfolios

Resources & Materials

Prentice Hall US History text.

Linda Monk:

- The Words We Live By

History Channel: 10 Days that Changed America using the episode about Shay's Rebellion.

Amistad Resources:

- The Constitution and the Continental Congress

Gilder-Lehrman:

- Winning the Vote: A History of Voting Rights