

# Unit 3 - Fundamentals of the United States

Content Area: **ESL**  
Course(s): **ESL**  
Time Period: **Week 10**  
Length: **10 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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In this unit, the students will learn about the fundamentals that make up our nation. Concepts explored will be the different U.S. documents (e.g. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence), historical leaders (George Washington & Thomas Jefferson), figures events (e.g. Boston Massacre, various Patriot won battles, Battle of Yorktown, signing of the Treaty of Paris), and the branches of the U.S. government.

## Standards

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**Each WIDA sub-standard will be adapted to learner's proficiency level (entering, beginning, developing, expanding, bridging).**

SOC.6.1.4.D.6	Describe the civic leadership qualities and historical contributions of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin toward the development of the United States government.
SOC.6.1.4.D.17	Explain the role of historical symbols, monuments, and holidays and how they affect the American identity.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.d	Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution in terms of the decision-making powers of national government.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.d	Explain why New Jersey's location played an integral role in the American Revolution.
SOC.6.1.8.D.3.c	Analyze the impact of George Washington as general of the American revolutionary forces and as the first president of the United States.

## Essential Questions

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## Application of Knowledge and Skills...

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## **Students will know that...**

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- In 1783, the Treaty of Paris formally ended the Revolutionary War
- American colonists protested against the Stamp Act and their protest was a cause of the Revolutionary War.
- At the Battles of Trenton, Princeton, and Saratoga the Patriots won key victories
- The Americans won the last major battle of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown, Virginia.
- the Bill of Rights
- The Boston Massacre of 1770 caused alienation in the colonies against British rule
- the contributions of the following individuals before the Revolutionary War: Patrick Henry, Crispus Attucks, Sam Adams, Paul Revere, Ethan Allen, Thomas Paine, and Thomas Jefferson.
- The Declaration of Independence began the formal independence movement of the United States against Great Britain.
- The first two political parties were the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans
- the following terms: territories, statehood, legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, amendment, republic, democracy, checks and balances, veto, and political party.
- the overall commander of American military forces during the Revolutionary War was George Washington
- the relationship between the states under the Articles of Confederation
- The United States became independent from Great Britain following the Revolutionary War.

## **Students will be skilled at...**

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- Analyze the effect of the Boston Massacre in causing further alienation in the colonies.
- Analyze the impact of protest against the Stamp Act as a cause of the Revolutionary War.
- Articulate key events and their agitators preceding the Revolutionary War.
- Describe the basic structure of the U.S. Constitution
- Explain the British, Patriot, and Loyalist perspective of the Revolutionary War
- Explain the process of compromise in creating the U.S. Constitution
- Identify the roles of major figures associated with the Constitutional Convention
- Identify the roles of major figures associated with the Revolutionary War
- Summarize the arguments for and against the U.S. Constitution
- Summarize the main points of the Declaration of Independence.
- Summarize the results of the Treaty of Paris

## Assessments

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- Formative assessment: performance assessment- trading cards on symbols, monuments, holidays, and people that connect to the identity of the United States 6.1.8.4.D.6, 6.1.4.D.17
- Formative assessment: written assessment- journal written from perspective of citizen during the Revolutionary times. 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.4.D.6
- Formative assessment: written- timeline of period . 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.4.D.6
- Formative assessment: written- venn diagram and subsequent written assignment on the comparisons and contrasting features of the Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution 6.1.8.A.3.c, 6.1.8.A.3d
- Unit Pretest: pretest encompassing information about: the beginnings of the United States, including, precursors to the Revolutionary War, time during the War, post war, documents such as the Constitution and Declaration of Independence that came about during this period, and the branches of government. 6.1.8.A.3.c., 6.1.8.A.3.d, 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.8.D.3.c, 6.1.4.D.17, 6.1.4.D.6
- Unit test, Summative: Written test- Unit test encompassing information about: the beginnings of the United States, including, precursors to the Revolutionary War, time during the War, post war, documents such as the Constitution and Declaration of Independence that came about during this period, and the branches of government. 6.1.8.A.3.c., 6.1.8.A.3.d, 6.1.8.B.3.d, 6.1.8.D.3.c, 6.1.4.D.17, 6.1.4.D.6

## Activities

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- content related videos
- create a lapbook about the Constitution
- create semantic webs on different documents
- crossword puzzles to build content related vocabulary
- Read ELP appropriate literature on content
- research project on figure and leaders during the beginning of our nation
- retelling activities about U.S. events
- timeline with events from the Revolutionary War period (pre, during, and post)

## Activities to Differentiate Instruction

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- pictures/photographs
- video clips
- word wall
- L1 support
- adapted text
- modeling
- guided questions
- timelines

- sequence blocks

## **Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction**

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language arts

## **Resources**

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reading a-z

brain pop videos