

Unit 7 - Creating a Nation

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 7**
Time Period: **June**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Summary

After gaining independence, Americans faced the task for forming independent governments at both the state and national levels. The nation's government under its first constitution-- the Articles of Confederation-- managed some key achievements, however, it proved to be too weak to solve many of the nation's problems including debt and trouble with foreign governments. A demand to change the Articles of Confederation led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

Debate surrounding the strength of the national government, representation of the states, population in the southern colonies, the continuation of the slave trade, and the inclusion of a Bill of Rights, ensued. The Constitution would go into effect with the approval of 9 of the 13 states. Although an American document, the Constitution has roots in other civilizations. The delegates who wrote the document studied the history of political thought in an effort to avoid the mistakes of the past. Many ideas found in the Constitution came from European political institutions and writers.

Standards

SOC.6.1.8.A.3.b	Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.
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.A.3.g	Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.a	Assess how conflicts and alliances among European countries and Native American groups impacted the expansion of the American colonies.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.b	Determine the extent to which the geography of the United States influenced the debate on representation in Congress and federalism by examining the New Jersey and Virginia plans.
SOC.6.1.8.C.3.b	Summarize the effect of inflation and debt on the American people and the response of state and national governments during this time.
SOC.6.1.8.D.3.g	Evaluate the extent to which the leadership and decisions of early administrations of the national government met the goals established in the Preamble of the Constitution.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

Student Learning Objectives

- Students will learn the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- Students will learn the process and policies of land settlement after the Revolutionary War.
- Students will learn the impact of inflation and debt on both individual Americans and the state and national governments during this time.

- Students will learn the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- Students will learn the extent to which the Constitution included minority groups such as women, African Americans, and Native Americans.
- Students will learn the beliefs of federalists and anti-federalists.
- Students will learn the effectiveness of fundamental principles of the Constitution (separation of powers, checks and balances).

Essential Questions

- Why were the Articles of Confederation considered weak?
- How was the settlement of western land achieved?
- How did debt and inflation affect Americans? How did the state and federal government respond?
- What issues surrounded the Constitutional Convention?
- What role did compromise play at the Constitutional Convention?
- How were slaves and women represented in the Constitution (if at all)?
- What are the major differences between federalists and anti-federalists?
- How effective are the key principles presented in the Constitution (separation of powers, checks and balances)?

Enduring Understandings

- Students will understand that the Articles of Confederation had weaknesses.
- Students will understand that compromise played a large role in the adoption of the Constitution.
- Students will understand that the defining principles of the Constitution concerning the powers of government.
- Students will understand the differences in beliefs between Federalists and anti-Federalists.

Application

- Students will independently use their learning to...

Skills

Students will be skilled at:

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