Updated: Unit 2 Constitution/New Nation (8th Grade)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP2**
Length: **9 weeks**
Status: **Published**

21st Century Skills: Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

9.4.8.DC.6	Analyze online information to distinguish whether it is helpful or harmful to reputation.
9.4.8.GCA.1	Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).
9.4.8.GCA.2	Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.
9.4.8.IML.7	Use information from a variety of sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures for a specific purpose (e.g., 1.2.8.C2a, 1.4.8.CR2a, 2.1.8.CHSS/IV.8.AI.1, W.5.8, 6.1.8.GeoSV.3.a, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.4.b, 7.1.NH. IPRET.8).
9.4.8.IML.12	Use relevant tools to produce, publish, and deliver information supported with evidence for an authentic audience.
9.4.8.TL.3	Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.

Essential Questions: Guiding Questions

Topic 4 Lesson 1: A Weak Confederation

- Why did the Articles of Confederation create a weak national government?
- What problems did the United States face under the Articles of Confederation?
- How did Shays' Rebellion reveal the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
- Why did many Americans believe a stronger national government was necessary?
- Why did the United States replace the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution?
- How did the Constitution address the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

Topic 4 Lesson 2: Drafting a Constitution

- Why was the Constitutional Convention called?
- How did delegates resolve disagreements over representation and slavery?
- How did the framers attempt to create a government that balanced power while protecting the interests of different states?
- How did the Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Great Compromise, and Three-Fifths Compromise shape

the structure of the United States government?

Topic 4 Lesson 4: Federalists, Antifederalists, and the Bill of Rights

- Why did Americans disagree about ratifying the Constitution?
- What were the major arguments of the Federalists and Antifederalists?
- Why was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?
- How do individual rights strengthen democracy?
- Why did Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagree about the Constitution, and how did their debates influence its adoption?
- How did the Bill of Rights address concerns about individual freedoms and government power?

Topic 4 Lesson 5: Understanding the Constitution

- What are the principles of the Constitution, and why are they important?
- How does the Constitution divide and limit government power?
- How do checks and balances prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful?
- Why has the Constitution remained the foundation of the U.S. government?
- How do the principles of the Constitution—including federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, consent of the governed, republicanism, popular sovereignty, and individual rights—help balance power and protect citizens?

Topic 4 Lesson 6: Federalism and Amendments

- How does federalism divide power between the national and state governments?
- Why is the amendment process important?
- How does the Constitution adapt to meet the needs of a changing nation?
- To what extent has the Constitution successfully balanced flexibility with stability?
- What responsibilities do citizens, political parties, and the media have in a democratic society?

Topic 5 Lesson1: Washington's Presidency

- What precedents did George Washington establish for future presidents?

- How did Washington strengthen the new federal government?
- Why were Hamilton's financial plans important to the nation's future?
- How did events such as the Whiskey Rebellion and Washington's Farewell Address shape the role of the federal government?
- To what extent did early government policies such as the National Bank, tariffs, and efforts to address national debt meet the economic challenges facing the new nation?
- How did the Judiciary Act of 1789 and the Northwest Ordinance help strengthen and organize the United States?

Topic 5 Lesson 3: Presidents Adams and Jefferson

- How did the actions and decisions of the Washington and Adams administrations help establish the new government?
- How did John Adams and Thomas Jefferson differ in their visions for the United States?
- How did the XYZ Affair and the Alien and Sedition Acts test the balance between national security and individual rights?
- Why was the election of 1800 considered a peaceful transfer of power?
- How did the Louisiana Purchase change the future of the United States?
- How did Supreme Court decisions during this period strengthen the federal government?
- How and why did political parties develop, and how did disagreements over the role of government shape their formation?
- How did the rise of political parties reflect differing views about the role and power of the federal government?
- To what extent did the Adams administration protect national security while preserving individual rights and liberties?
- How did the Alien and Sedition Acts challenge constitutional rights and civil liberties?
- How did Thomas Jefferson's presidency expand the power and influence of the United States?

Topic 5 Lesson 4: A Changing Nation

- How did westward expansion transform the United States?
- How did transportation and communication improvements strengthen the nation?
- What challenges did territorial growth create for the federal government?
- How did early decisions made by Washington, Adams, and Jefferson influence the future growth and

development of the United States?

- How did political and economic challenges influence the decisions made by Washington, Adams, and Jefferson?
- To what extent did the early leaders of the United States fulfill the goals and principles established by the Constitution?

Learning Targets (examples)

Topic 4 Lesson 1: A Weak Confederation

- I can explain why the Articles of Confederation created a weak national government by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and examining the challenges faced by the new nation because understanding the failures of the Articles helps explain why the United States needed a stronger government.
- I can compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution by identifying how each divided powers between the national and state governments because comparing both systems helps explain how the Constitution created a stronger and more effective government.
- I can explain how Shays' Rebellion influenced the writing of the Constitution by examining primary and secondary sources because historical events often reveal weaknesses in governments and lead to important changes.

Topic 4 Lesson 2: Drafting a Constitution

- I can explain how the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan influenced the structure of Congress by comparing each proposal and using evidence from the Constitutional Convention because compromise is essential when creating a government that represents different interests.
- I can explain how the Great Compromise and the Three-Fifths Compromise helped create the Constitution by analyzing the debates and agreements reached at the Constitutional Convention because compromise allowed the states to unite under one government.
- I can explain how the Constitution divides and limits government power by examining the three branches of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances because limiting power helps protect democracy and individual freedoms.

Topic 4 Lesson 4: Federalists, Antifederalists, and the Bill of Rights

- I can compare the arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists by analyzing their beliefs about the Constitution because understanding different perspectives helps explain how democratic decisions are made.
- I can explain why the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution by examining the concerns of Anti-Federalists and the protections guaranteed by the first ten amendments because individual rights are essential to a democratic government.

- I can evaluate how compromise influenced the ratification of the Constitution by using evidence from historical documents because successful governments often require negotiation and compromise.

Topic 4 Lesson 5: Understanding the Constitution

- I can explain the principles of the Constitution by analyzing examples of popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, limited government, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights because these principles continue to guide the United States government today.

- I can evaluate how the Constitution balances power and protects citizens by examining the responsibilities of each branch of government because balancing power helps prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

Topic 4 Lesson 6: Federalism and Amendments

- I can explain how federalism divides powers between the national and state governments by examining delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers because sharing power allows governments to meet both national and local needs.

- I can explain how the amendment process allows the Constitution to change over time by analyzing examples of constitutional amendments because governments must adapt to meet the changing needs of society while protecting citizens' rights.

- I can explain the responsibilities of citizens, political parties, interest groups, and the media by examining their roles in American democracy because active civic participation helps strengthen democratic government.

Topic 5 Lesson1: Washington's Presidency

- I can explain how George Washington established precedents for future presidents by examining the creation of the executive branch and the first Cabinet because the decisions of early leaders shaped the role of the presidency.

- I can evaluate Alexander Hamilton's financial plan by analyzing the National Bank, national debt, tariffs, and taxation because economic policies influence the strength and stability of a nation.

- I can explain how the Whiskey Rebellion, Judiciary Act of 1789, and Northwest Ordinance strengthened the new government by examining their impact on the Early Republic because the federal government needed to demonstrate its ability to enforce laws and organize the nation.

- I can evaluate George Washington's leadership by using evidence from his presidency, including the Farewell Address, because his decisions established traditions that continue to influence the American government.

Topic 5 Lesson 3: Presidents Adams and Jefferson

- I can explain how political parties developed by comparing the beliefs of the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans because differing views about government continue to shape American politics today.

- I can evaluate the Alien and Sedition Acts by examining their impact on constitutional rights and civil liberties because governments must balance national security with individual freedoms.

- I can explain how Thomas Jefferson expanded the United States by analyzing the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition because territorial expansion changed the nation's economy, geography, and future growth.

- I can evaluate the leadership of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson by using historical evidence to determine how their decisions helped shape the federal government because the actions of early presidents influenced the future of the United States.

Topic 5 Lesson 4: A Changing Nation

- I can explain how westward expansion changed the United States by analyzing the effects of the Louisiana Purchase and exploration of new territories because territorial growth created new opportunities and challenges for the nation.

- I can evaluate whether the early administrations fulfilled the goals and principles of the Constitution by analyzing evidence from the presidencies of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson because evaluating historical leadership helps us understand how governments develop over time.

- I can make connections between the Early Republic and modern American government by comparing the decisions of early leaders with issues facing the United States today because understanding the past helps citizens make informed decisions about the present and future.

Supplemental Activities

- Savvas textbook

- Timelines

- America: Story of Us Documentary

- Civic Stories with the National Constitution Center

- Decode the Document with the National Constitution Center

- Scholar Exchanges with the National Constitution Center

- DBQs

- Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

- Hamilton: An American Musical (Act 2)

- iCivics

- History Channel

- America: Story of Us Documentar

Evidence/Assessments

- chunked tests/quizzes
- Document Based Questions
- essays
- primary source analysis
- benchmark assessment
- image analysis