

Unit 2

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Introduction

US Government: America has the oldest operational constitutional government in the world, the continued evolution of its practice is observable in current events and public policy.

Standards

SOC.6.1.12.A.1	Civics, Government, and Human Rights
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.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.3.d	Describe how the Supreme Court increased the power of the national government and promoted national economic growth during this era.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.f	Compare and contrast the successes and failures of political (i.e., the 1844 State Constitution) and social (i.e., abolition, women's rights, and temperance) reform movements in New Jersey and the nation during the Antebellum period.
SOC.6.1.12.A.4.a	Analyze the ways in which prevailing attitudes, socioeconomic factors, and government actions (i.e., the Fugitive Slave Act and Dred Scott Decision) in the North and South (i.e., Secession) led to the Civil War.
SOC.6.1.12.A.4.b	Analyze how ideas found in key documents (i.e., the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address) contributed to demanding equality for all.
SOC.6.1.12.A.7.b	Evaluate the impact of government policies designed to promote patriotism and to protect national security during times of war on individual rights (i.e., the Espionage Act and the Sedition Amendment).
SOC.6.1.12.A.10.c	Evaluate the short- and long-term impact of the expanded role of government on economic policy, capitalism, and society.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a	Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.
SOC.9-12.1.1.1	Compare present and past events to evaluate the consequences of past decisions and to apply lessons learned.
SOC.9-12.1.1.2	Analyze how change occurs through time due to shifting values and beliefs as well as technological advancements and changes in the political and economic landscape.
SOC.9-12.1.3.1	Distinguish valid arguments from false arguments when interpreting current and historical

events.

- SOC.9-12.1.3.3 Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views (including historians and experts) while using the date, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection.
- SOC.9-12.1.4.1 Take a position on a current public policy issue and support it with historical evidence, reasoning, and constitutional analysis in a written and/or oral format.
- SOC.9-12.1.4.2 Demonstrate effective presentation skills by presenting information in a clear, concise, and well-organized manner taking into consider appropriate use of language for task and audience.

Essential Questions

1. Where does the American constitutional system stand historically with other national experiences?
2. What about the American constitutional system allows for its continued success?
3. What evidence is there today of any erosion in the continued efficacy of constitutional government in America?
4. What suggestions if any for amendments to the document might assure its continued survival?
5. What events in recent modern times did the most to endanger the survival of the constitutional system?

Content / Skills

Briefly identify and describe worldwide constitutions that are worthy of analysis.

Evaluate the US constitutional systems of federalism, separation of power, checks and balances, the amendment process, and other systems which may contribute to the ongoing viability of constitutional government in America.

Conduct current event evaluation regarding but not limited to such issues as sanctuary cities, federal v state narcotics policy, secession movements by states, independence movements within states, and the integrity of the federal separation of powers.

Students shall evaluate the problems/successes described in the previous content cluster and suggest constitutional remedies for them. This may include but not limited to more specific delineation between exclusive national and state residual authority, clarifying of executive powers, legislative, and judicial authorities.

