

# B. New Nation and Constitution

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **September**  
Length: **2-3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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### Essential Questions

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- Why did the new nation need a government?
- What are the Articles of Confederation?
- What problems arise with the Articles of Confederation?
- Why was the Constitution written?
- Who wrote the Constitution?
- How did the Constitution guide the nation?
- What is the Bill of Rights?
- What are the Amendments and what do they mean?

### Content

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America becomes a new nation.

The Articles of Confederation was the nation's first Constitution.

Problems with the Articles of Confederation, including different forms of money, trade issues, too much power for states, federal government could not intervene when states had problems and could not collect taxes.

The Constitution was the replacement for the Articles of Confederation.

The Constitution is the oldest form of written government in existence today.

The three branches of government

- Legislative-make laws
- Executive-enforce laws
- Judicial-interpret laws

Constitution allows for separation of powers, a federal system and a system of checks and balances

The Constitution can be amended.

The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments in the Constitution.

The "founding fathers" developed the Constitution and helped to get states to ratify it.

## **Skills**

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Identify first 13 states.

Tell why the Articles of Confederation were not working.

Tell why the US Constitution is an important government guideline.

Explain branches of government and their duties.

Identify the amendments in the Bill of Rights.

read and understand Amendments; use primary source to explain meaning.

## **Assessments**

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Formative-Constitution practice page 129; Constitutional Autographs, Constitution video T/F Quiz

Summative-Constitution Puzzle, Bill of Rights matching project

## **Lessons/Learning Scenarios**

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Lesson 1: Safari Montage video-US Constitution and the Bill of Rights; read text pp Articles of Confederation

Lesson 2: Map skills -A New Nation 20a-b;Constitution practice sheet

Lesson 3: Video and notes on T/F quiz, The Almost Painless Guide to the US Constitution

Lesson 4: Brain Pop Branches of Government with quiz for notes

Lesson 5: Constitution Quiz and Bill of Rights matching project

Lesson 6: Work with a partner to read, understand and explain one of the 27 Amendments to the Constitution

## **Standards**

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SOC.5-8.6.1.8.3

Disputes over political authority and economic issues contributed to a movement for

	independence in the colonies. The fundamental principles of the United States Constitution serve as the foundation of the United States government today.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.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.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.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.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.g	Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.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.5-8.6.1.8.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.5-8.6.1.8.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.

## Resources

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Mapping US History

Our Nation

Safari Montage

Brain Pop

Kids Discover

Scholastic News

Atlas and Activity Map

Assorted worksheets and supplemental materials