

**Objectives with Vocabulary*****“We the People...” – Constitution and government***

- 1. Freedom fizzles: The first government falls flat on its face.** What did the colonies “win” as a result of the Revolution? Explain how the average American felt about the idea of a powerful government following the war. What was the first constitution of the United States called and why was it deliberately made weak? What powers did the first government have? What powers DIDN'T the first government have? What caused Shays' Rebellion to happen? According to Locke's theory of the social compact, explain whether Shays' and his followers were justified in trying to overthrow the government. Explain how this rebellion led to a new constitution. What was the purpose of the Philadelphia Convention? (A.J. Ch. 3 pgs. 178-185)
- 2. Describe major events or people that helped shape the Constitution.** What government did the Constitution replace? What delegate is known as the ‘Father of the Constitution’ and why? Why did states care about the number of votes they each got in the new government? Why was the issue of ‘population’ so controversial? Describe the two compromises that saved the Constitution - what issues were they about? Why was slavery protected, instead of outlawed, when the Constitution was created? Explain why not all Americans supported the new Constitution. What group supported the new Constitution and wrote essays to get it ratified? What group opposed the Constitution and explain why they were opposed to it. What was **added** to the Constitution – a final compromise of sorts – to make both groups happy? (A.J. pgs. 198-208)
- 3. Describe the three (3) branches of government found in the U.S. Constitution.** Why does our government have three branches (remember the gun example)? In the space BELOW: Name each branch and the Article of the Constitution that explains it. Describe the main individuals or group, and the primary responsibilities of the branch. (A.J. pgs. 227-231, 250-269, class handouts)

-Article I	-Article II	-Article III
Branch:		
Primary person/ or group in branch		
Responsibilities:		
- 4. Explain HOW the system of Checks and Balances is incorporated into the U.S. Constitution.** Where did the idea for checking the power of the government come from? Give at least one example of how each branch of government has the power to check the other two branches. Describe how this principle is used repeatedly in the process of making a law. Explain why the President is not all powerful. (A.J. pgs. 223-231, 250-269)
- 5. Describe the importance of the Bill of Rights.** How many amendments make up the Bill of Rights? Why were the Bill of Rights added? The Bill of Rights is an example of which of the five principles of government? Which protected “right” is the most important to you? Describe two ways that amendments can be added. Should it be easier to change the Constitution? In total, how many amendments have been added to the Constitution? (A.J. pgs. 223-269)
- 6. PRINCIPLES and political parties.** List and define each of the major principles of the Constitution. Name the civilizations and philosophers who influenced each of these principles. Provide an example of how each principle is reflected in the Constitution or in how our government operates. What were the first two political parties formed in America? Describe five ways that political parties influence our government. (A.J. pgs. 221-223 and 224-233, handouts)
- 7. Duties and responsibilities of citizens.** Explain the difference between a duty and a responsibility. Describe how a person becomes a citizen of the United States. What types of duties do American citizens have? Which specific duty is part of the *social compact* (remember John Locke!) outlined in the Declaration of Independence? What is the most important responsibility a citizen has in your opinion? Explain. (A.J. pgs. 223-269)

## Vocabulary

constitution

Articles of Confederation

republic

civic virtue

amendment

executive cabinet

ratify

Marbury v. Madison

precedent

majority / minority

diplomacy

bill

veto

judicial review

unconstitutional

opinion (of the Supreme Court)

political party

**Diagram Federalism:** American Journey pg. 222

Powers **SHARED** between State & Federal LEVELS of government

