

Creating Governments Test Review Sheet

Essential Question: How did the experiences of the Colonists affect the decisions they made about the governments they created?

Articles of Confederation

1. Be able to describe the basic characteristics and elements of the Articles of Confederation and be able to explain the reasons for each of their choices.
2. Explain how the choices they made about setting up the Articles related directly to their experiences as colonies of Britain.
3. What were the problems with the Articles that led to the writing of the Constitution?

Constitution

1. What were the main goals of the Constitution?
2. I stated that the key ideas to the writing of the Constitution were: Balance, Compromise, and Limits. What does this mean and what examples can you think of? Connect this to the stuff on the elements of the Constitution chart. How did those elements help accomplish the goals of the Constitution? You will have to write a short essay on this question.

Two House Legislature

1. Why was this included in the Constitution?
2. What are the two houses of the US Congress?
3. How often are elections held for each house? What is the term for members for each house?
4. What was the Great Compromise?
5. What were the Virginia and New Jersey Plans?

Related Vocabulary: Legislated Branch, Congress, House of Representatives, Senate, Great Compromise, Compromise, Virginia and New Jersey Plans and Representation.

Separation of Powers/Branches of Government

1. Be able to explain what these terms mean.
2. Why was this included in the Constitution?
3. What are the three branches?
4. What are the general and specific responsibilities of each?
5. Who is in each branch?

Related vocabulary: Executive, Judicial, Legislative, President, Congress, Supreme Court, Cabinet, Executive Agencies, Governor, Representation, Bill vs. Law, Precedent.

Checks and Balances

1. Be able to explain what this means.
2. Why was this included in the Constitution?
3. What powers does each branch have over the others?

Related vocabulary: Veto, Override, Constitutional/Unconstitutional, Impeach

Federalism

1. What does this term mean?
2. Why is it in the Constitution?
3. Be able to place the different powers of government into the appropriate categories (Federal, State, Shared)
4. Be able to name: The President, Vice President, your House of Representatives member, the two New York State Senators in Congress, the Governor, the Mayor and your city council person.

Electoral College

1. What does this term mean?
2. What were the two main reasons it was included in the Constitution?
3. How is a state's electoral vote count determined?
4. There are 538 electoral votes. How do we arrive at that number?
5. Be able to explain two advantages and two disadvantages of the electoral college system.
6. Be able to determine who would win an election if given an election scenario.

Related vocabulary: Electoral Votes, "Winner Take All" System, Popular Votes

Slavery in the Constitution

1. What was the 3/5ths compromise?
2. Why was it included in the Constitution?

Census

1. What is the census and what is its constitutional purpose?
2. Be able to determine the number of House of Representatives members a state would get based on population data.

Other:

1. What is the Bill of Rights? Why was it included in the Constitution?