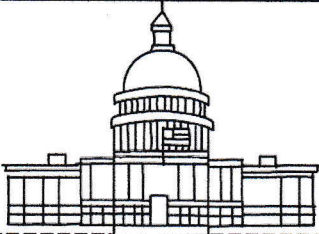


Government Study Guide



Key Words:

ratify: approve

veto: refuse to sign into law

amendment: addition or change

checks and balances: guards one branch from becoming too powerful

republic: a form of government in which people elect representatives to run the country

Articles of Confederation

- ~ first written constitution
- ~ Only 1 branch- legislative. It could make the laws but not pass them.
- ~ It couldn't collect enough money from states to pay for the war.
- ~ It couldn't put tariffs on imports of British goods without state approval.

3 Branches of Government

Legislative Branch

Congress

- *Makes laws
- *Establishes taxes

Congress is divided into 2 parts:

Senate
representatives
per state- 2

House of Representatives
representatives
per state- depends
on the population

Executive Branch

President
(Commander-in-Chief)

- *Makes sure laws are carried out
- *Commands the armed forces

President must have been born in the United States and lived in the country for the last 14 years.



Judicial Branch

Supreme Court and other federal courts

- *Decides what laws mean
- *Interprets if laws are fair

The Supreme Court has 9 justices (judges) and is the highest court in the land.

Bill of Rights

10 amendments to the Constitution

- 1st- People have freedom of religion, speech, and press
- 2nd- Right to bear arms
- 3rd- Can not be forced to house soldiers
- 4th- Protects people from law enforcement entering their home
- 5th- Can not be forced to testify against yourself in court

Making Our Government

The Articles of Confederation was making the U.S. government weak.

Shays' Rebellion was a series of protests from farmers against tax and debt collections.

The Constitution Convention formed to amend the Articles of Confederation.

The Virginia Plan was presented. It suggested 3 branches and state representation formed by population.

Smaller states opposed, but the majority vote ruled in favor of the plan and the Articles of Confederation was replaced.

Great Compromise: The smaller states argued, which led to a compromise. The Senate is represented by 2 members per state, not based on population.

Three-Fifths Compromise: 3/5 of the slaves were counted for the purpose of representation and taxes.

Opinions Divided

Federalists wanted a strong national government and supported the Constitution.

Anti-Federalists opposed the Constitution because it gave too much power to the national government.

Government Documents

	Declaration of Independence	Constitution (highest law)	Bill of Rights
Who?	Thomas Jefferson	James Madison & The Continental Convention	James Madison
When?	1776	1787	1789
What?	"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...."	"We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union..."	"freedom of speech"