



Social Studies

Grade 8

2nd Nine Weeks



This academic overview can be used to monitor and support your child's at-home learning progress.

Unit 3: Forming a National Government

Student Learning Targets

- I can explain how the grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence were addressed in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- I can identify the ideas from historic documents that influenced the principles of the U.S. government.
- I can read an excerpt from the U.S. Constitution and identify the principle that is reflected.
- I can summarize the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?
- Why were compromises necessary in the creation of the U.S. Constitution?
- In what ways does the U.S. Constitution reflect principles of constitutional democracy including limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights?
- What rights are specifically protected in the Bill of Rights?
- What ideas from historical documents led to the creation of the seven principles of the U.S. Constitution?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Constitution- a written plan of government for a state or country
- Principles- big ideas that guide the decision making for a group of people
- Legislative Branch- the branch of government that creates new laws
- Executive Branch- the branch of government responsible for enforcing the law
- Judicial Branch- the branch of government made up of the court system that interprets the law

Unit 4 : Early Republic: Washington through Monroe

Student Learning Targets

- I can identify domestic problems faced by the presidents of the new republic.
- I can describe domestic problems faced by the presidents of the new republic.
- I can identify the origin of the Judicial Branch's power of Judicial Review.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- How did the leaders of the United States act to uphold the goals of the Constitution?
- Why did political parties form during the Early Republic Era?
- How did regional differences influence the development of political parties?
- How did the Supreme Court establish a true balance of power between the three branches?
- How did each president demonstrate the powers of the Executive Branch with regard to foreign and domestic affairs?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Domestic affairs- presidential policies that are created to deal with issues within the country.
- Foreign affairs- presidential policies that are created to deal with countries outside of the U.S.