The U.S. CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE

**1. ENGLISH TRADITIONS BORROWED BY AMERICANS:**

What is the name of the **document of laws & rights for people** that the Americans

borrowed from the **English** when creating their own constitution? Magna Carta

What are **two other ideas of government** the Americans borrowed from the **English**?

1) Parliament (Congress) 2) English Bill of Rights (Bill of Rights)

What **earlier colonial document** created by the Pilgrims did Americans use as an example when writing the Constitution? Mayflower Compact

The U.S. Constitution was **signed** in the year of 1787.

**2. ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION VS. U.S. CONSTITUTION:**

**Articles of Confederation** was America’s first constitution signed in 1777.

List two reasons why the Articles of Confederation was **unsuccessful**:

1) Federal government was not strong enough 2) states could coin own money

What did the men do at the **Constitutional Convention**? revise Articles of Confederation

George Washington was the **president** of the Constitutional Convention.

The delegates agreed that there should be 3 branches of government, which are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

What did the **Virginia Plan** call for? Large states to have more votes

What did the **New Jersey Plan** call for? Each state to have one vote

What did the small states & large states agree about in the **Great Compromise**? Two houses of Congress

**3. MAJOR DEBATES:**

**Federalism** is the division of power between the federal government & the states.

List specific powers that each group has:

**Federal Government only:** 1) declare war 2) maintain navy

**States only:** 1) powers not given to federal govt. 2) honor other states’ public acts/records

**Shared Powers:** 1) collect taxes 2) hold trials in courts

**3/5 Compromise** said that slaves would count for 3/5 of the vote

**Federalists** were supporters of the Constitution and

**Anti-Federalists** were not supporters of the Constitution.

According to the **Anti-Federalists**, the Constitution was **missing** a Bill of Rights, which includes the first 10 of a total of 27 **Amendments**.

**4. RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION & *FEDERALIST PAPERS*:**

In order to put the Constitution into effect in 1787, 9 out of 13 states had to **ratify** it.

The **president** of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington sent the **signed**

Constitution to Confederation Congress to ratify it, explaining in a letter the goal of making decisions to please all of the states.

Why did the **Anti-Federalists react negatively** to the signed Constitution? They wanted a

Bill of Rights added to it.

James Madison is known as the **“Father of the Constitution,”** because most of it is based on his ideas. He was also an **author** of the *Federalist Papers,* explaining the Constitution and encouraging people to ratify it.

In the ***Federalist Papers***, Madison supported a large, strong government and explains the need for separation of powers, which include the legislative, executive, & judicial branches of government.

In 1789, Madison also wrote the **first 10 amendments** or Bill of Rights, which were ratified in 1791.

**5. GOVERNMENT’S POWERS & PEOPLE’S RIGHTS:**

What are the **6 goals** listed in the **Preamble**?

1) form a more perfect union 4) provide for the common defense

2) establish justice 5) promote the general welfare

3) ensure domestic tranquility 6) secure blessings of liberty for ourselves & our posterity

**Congress**, which is part of the legislative **branch**, has **two** houses, which are the **Senate** and the **House of Representatives.**

Fill in the chart below:

A republic is a form of government in which citizens rule themselves through elected **representatives**.

The President can be **impeached** for treason and bribery.

What is the “**Supreme Law of the Land**”? Constitution

What are 3 qualifications to be **President**? 1) born in U.S.

2) 35 or older 3) lived in U.S. at least past 14 years

To be a **Representative** one must be 25 years old and a citizen for 7 years.

To be **Senator** one must be 30 years old and a citizen for 9 years.

What does the **19th Amendment** say? Women can vote

What does the **13th Amendment** say? Abolished slavery

What are the **five freedoms** listed in the **first Amendment** of the Bill of Rights?

1) speech 2) religion 3) assembly 4) press 5) petition

List two more **freedoms** in the Bill of Rights: 1) bear arms 2) trial by jury

**6. PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION:**

What do you call the system of government in which each branch of government has some way to **control** the other 2 branches? checks & balances

When a President **vetoes** a bill where does it then go? Congress

How can that bill **still** become a law? 2/3 vote by Congress