



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

2021 Ohio Middle School State Showcase

Unit 1

What Were the Founders' Basic Ideas about Government?

- 1. The Founders were concerned with how to preserve a republican form of government.**
 - According to the Founders, what was republican government?
 - What weaknesses did the Founders think would lead to the failure of republican government?
 - How did the Founders think these weaknesses could be prevented? Do you think the Founders' solutions were correct? Why or why not?



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Unit 2

What Shaped the Founders' Thinking about Government?

- 1. The Declaration of Independence told the world why the Americans wanted to free themselves from British rule. The Declaration stated the Founders' beliefs about government.**
 - Using the Declaration as your source, in your own words, describe the principles of good government.
 - Where did the Founders get these ideas?
 - Do you think these principles are valid today? Why or why not?



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Unit 3

What Happened at the Philadelphia Convention?

- 1. The Framers put forth various plans to solve the problem of representation in Congress.**
 - What were the advantages and disadvantages of the Virginia Plan?
 - What were the advantages and disadvantages of the New Jersey Plan?
 - Do you think the Great Compromise was a good solution to the problem of representation? Why or why not?



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Unit 4

How Was the Constitution Used to Establish Our Government?

1. Political parties are an important part of our political system today, yet they are not mentioned in the Constitution.

- Why did the Framers fear political parties?
- Why and how did political parties develop?
- Do political parties play a useful role today? Why or why not?



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Unit 5

How Does the Constitution Protect Our Basic Rights?

- 1. The First Amendment states that laws shall not be passed that abridge freedom of speech.**
 - Why did the Founders think freedom of speech was so important?
 - Do you believe there are times when freedom of expression should be limited? Explain your response.
 - Should a public speaker who calls for violent action be protected by the First Amendment whereas an audience member who performs the action can be sent to prison? Why or why not?



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Unit 6

What Are the Responsibilities of Citizens?

- 1. Voting is one way a citizen may participate in politics. Many other activities are available.**
 - What activities besides voting are available to citizens?
 - Which of these activities, if any, do you think is most useful? Explain your answer.
 - How should a citizen decide which of these various activities to participate in?