

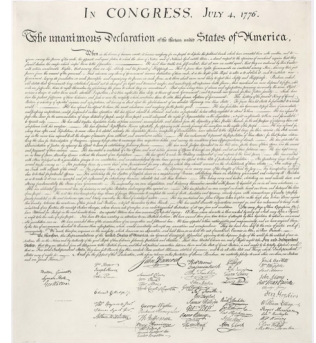
Name:
Period:

Understanding the Ideals and Documents that Establish the Foundation of our Political Laws

You will review and discuss the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Hamilton and Jefferson's Ideas, and the Bill of Rights. The following documents and ideas are the foundation of our political system. You will receive a grade for your written responses as well as your engagement in group discussions.

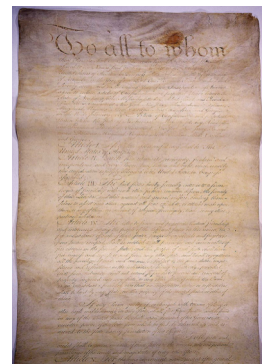
The **Declaration of Independence** is the statement adopted by the [Continental Congress](#) meeting at [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#) on July 4, 1776, which announced that the [thirteen American colonies](#), then at war with [Great Britain](#), regarded themselves as thirteen newly independent [sovereign states](#), and no longer a part of the [British Empire](#). Instead they formed a new nation—the [United States of America](#). [John Adams](#) was a leader in pushing for independence, which was unanimously approved on July 2. A [committee of five](#) had already drafted the formal declaration, to be ready when Congress voted on independence. The term "Declaration of Independence" is not used in the document itself.

Adams persuaded the committee to select [Thomas Jefferson](#) to compose the original draft of the document, which Congress would edit to produce the final version. The Declaration was ultimately a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to [declare independence](#) from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the [American Revolutionary War](#). The national birthday, [Independence Day](#), is celebrated on July 4, although Adams wanted July 2. ¹



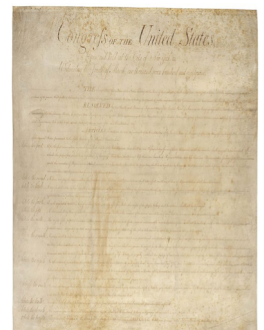
The **Articles of Confederation**, formally the **Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union**, were an agreement among all thirteen original states in the United States of America that served as its first constitution. Its drafting by a committee appointed by the [Second Continental Congress](#) began on July 12, 1776, and an approved version was sent to the states for ratification in late 1777. The formal ratification by all thirteen states was completed in early 1781. Government under the Articles was superseded by a new [constitution](#) and [federal](#) form of government in 1789.

Even when not yet ratified, the Articles provided a system for the Continental Congress to direct the [American Revolutionary War](#), conduct diplomacy with Europe and deal with territorial issues and Native American relations. Nevertheless, the weakness of the government created by the Articles became a matter of concern for key [nationalists](#). On March 4, 1789, the general government under the Articles was replaced with the federal government under the [United States Constitution](#). The new Constitution provided for a much stronger federal government with a chief executive (the president), courts, and taxing powers. ²



The **Bill of Rights** is the collective name for the first ten [amendments](#) to the [United States Constitution](#). Proposed to assuage the fears of [Anti-Federalists](#) who had opposed Constitutional ratification, these amendments guarantee a number of personal freedoms, limit the government's power in judicial and other proceedings, and reserve some powers to the states and the public. Originally the amendments applied only to the federal government, however, most were subsequently applied to the government of each state by way of the [Fourteenth Amendment](#), through a process known as [incorporation](#).

On June 8, 1789 Representative [James Madison](#) introduced a series of thirty-nine amendments to the constitution in the [House of Representatives](#). Among his recommendations Madison proposed opening up the Constitution and inserting specific rights limiting the power of Congress in [Article One, Section 9](#). Seven of these limitations would become part of the ten ratified Bill of Rights amendments. Ultimately, on September 25, 1789, [Congress](#) approved twelve articles of amendment to the Constitution and submitted them to the [states](#) for [ratification](#). Contrary to Madison's original proposal that the articles be incorporated into the main body of the Constitution, they were proposed as "supplemental" additions to it. On December 15, 1791, Articles Three–Twelve, having been ratified by the required number of states, became Amendments One–Ten of the Constitution. ³



¹United States Declaration of Independence. (2015, October 16). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 10:33, October 27, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=United_States_Declaration_of_Independence&oldid=686081873

²Articles of Confederation. (2015, October 22). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 10:29, October 27, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Articles_of_Confederation&oldid=686909069

³United States Bill of Rights. (2015, October 2). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 10:37, October 27, 2015, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=United_States_Bill_of_Rights&oldid=683772473

Thematic Questions

Declaration of independence

What are some of the key Enlightenment ideas or ideals in the Declaration of Independence?

Articles of Confederation

What were some of the limitations of the Articles of Confederation?

Bill of Rights

What rights do you feel are the most significant in the Bill of Rights? Explain

How would you best contrast Federalist and anti-Federalist viewpoints?

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence **SD, CS, KR**

Matrix for Analyzing Features of the Articles of Confederation **SD, KR**

Matrix for Understanding the Bill of Rights **SD, CS, KR**

Federalist and Anti-federalists **SD, KR**

Overall Integration of Information and Ideas **SD, KR**

LT1 _____

LT2 _____

LT3 _____

LT5 _____

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

Discuss the following excerpts and interpret the meaning using your Great Awakening and Enlightenment handout.

Excerpt from Declaration of Independence	What the Excerpt Means and Connection to Enlightenment Thinkers
Excerpt 1: “When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to <u>dissolve the political bands</u> which have connected them with other and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the <u>separate and equal</u> station to which the <u>laws of nature</u> and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the <u>causes which impel them to the separation.</u> ”	
Excerpt 2: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”	
Excerpt 3: “[To] secure these [basic] rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed....”	
Excerpt 4: “[That] whenever any form of government becomes destructive [in protecting rights and responding to the people], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government...”	

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

Discuss the following excerpts and interpret the meaning using your Great Awakening and Enlightenment handout.

Excerpt from Declaration of Independence	What the Excerpt Means and Connection to Enlightenment Thinkers
Excerpt 5: “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States.”	
Excerpt 6: “To prove [that England has interfered with colonial rights], let the facts be submitted to a candid world: He has refused to assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.”	
Excerpt 7: “In every state of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the rule of a free people.”	
Excerpt 8: “We, therefore... solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states...”	

Matrix for Analyzing Features of the Articles of Confederation

Directions: Review each placard, read the information on it, and discuss the question(s). The complete the matrix below. Provide specific details of your plan in your solution.

Card	Feature	Explanation of Inclusion in the AoC	Possible Problems With This Feature	Suggested Solutions
A	No chief executive.		Lack of Leadership from central government. No single leader for the government.	
B	Laws needed approval by nine of the thirteen states.	Wanted to protect individual states' power. Fear of a strong central government.		
C	Congress did not have the power to tax citizens. It could only request tax money from states.		States often chose not to pay taxes and the federal government didn't have the funds to operate effectively.	
D	Congress did not have the power to draft an army. It could only request states to send men for military service.	Fear of a central government with a strong army that might take away citizen's rights.		

Matrix for Analyzing Features of the Articles of Confederation

Directions: Review each placard, read the information on it, and discuss the question(s). The complete the matrix below. Provide specific details of your plan in your solution.

Card	Feature	Explanation of Inclusion in the AoC	Possible Problems With This Feature	Suggested Solutions
E	No national court system	Fear of a central government with a court system that might be unfair to the rights of states		
F	An amendment changes to the Articles must be approved by all 13 states.		Nearly impossible to make changes to Articles. Any one state could stop an amendment that all the other states wanted.	
G	Congress did not have the power to collect state debts owed to the federal government.	Fear of strong central government that could force states to pay for things that they did not want or was in their best interest.		
H	Congress did not have the power to settle disputes among states.		Disputes among states often could not be resolved. Created disunity among states.	

Matrix for Understanding the Bill of Rights

Directions: Review each placard, read the information on it, and discuss the question(s). The complete the matrix below.

Placard	Describe What is Happening in the Picture	Right Exercised/Violated	Which Amendment?	Provide all of the rights from each Amendment and explain the connection to the Amendment. Cite text from the Constitution.
A	Here a police officer conducts a search of a suspected criminal.	No unreasonable search and seizures.	4th	This best fits the 4 th Amendment because the arrestee is being searched. The amendment protects against unreasonable search and seizures. Cause for the search is unclear, but search requires warrant or probable cause.
B				
C				
D				
E				

Matrix for Understanding the Bill of Rights

Directions: Review each placard, read the information on it, and discuss the question(s). The complete the matrix below.

Placard	Describe What is Happening in the Picture	Right Exercised/Violated	Which Amendment?	Provide all of the rights from each Amendment and explain the connection to the Amendment. Cite text from the Constitution.
F				
G				
H				
I				
J				

Federalist and Anti-federalist Graphic Organizer

Federalist: _____

Anti-Federalist: _____

Provide quotes to support your claims.

	Document A: Anti-Federalists Melancton Smith	Document B: Federalists Alexander Hamilton
Is this person happy with how the new Constitution deals with representation?		
What kind of government would this person like to see?		
Based on this document, what sort of people in society would support this point of view?		