From Revolution to Government

• The Second Continental Congress declared independence from Britain in 1776. The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783.

• Congress developed a new government for America: The Articles of Confederation

• Created a Confederation Congress as the new government of the United States.

Hi-lite: What did the 2nd Continental Congress have to develop after 1776?
Accomplishments

- Accomplishments of America’s first government:
  - Won the Revolutionary War against Britain
  - Created the land Ordinance of 1785
  - Created the Northwest Ordinance of 1787
  - The 2 land laws helped settle new territory and create states in the United States

Hi-lite: What did the 2 land laws help do?
Weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation

• The government under the Articles of Confederation had many weaknesses:
  – The government could not raise an army
  – 9 of 13 states had to vote yes for laws to pass.
  – Congress did not have the power to settle arguments between states.
  – There was no president or court system.

Hi-lite: What were 2 weaknesses in the government under the Articles of Confederation?
Shays’ Rebellion

- The Congress was so weak, it could not control the fights in the states.
- Shays’ Rebellion, a revolt of farmers in Massachusetts, made Americans realize that we needed to create a STRONGER national government.

**Hi-lite:** Why did Americans decide they had to get rid of the Articles of Confederation?
The Constitutional Convention

• Congress called for a Convention to deal with the problems in the government.

• The Convention met in Philadelphia at Independence Hall in 1787.

• Representatives from 12 of the 13 states met to revise the Articles of Confederation.

• The representatives wrote a new American Government called the United States Constitution.

Hi-lite: What did the state representatives do in Philadelphia in 1787?
Debate at the Convention

- Delegates argued about slavery, the **power** of the national government and **representation** in Congress.
- After 4 months of compromises, the Convention created an outline for a **new** government.
- The representatives voted for the Constitution on September 17, 1787.
- 9 of the 13 states had to vote for the Constitution.
- The Constitution became the **law** of the land in 1788.

**Hi-lite:**
What were 2 things delegates to the Convention argued about? When did the Constitution become the law?
Ratifying the Constitution

• The states had to ratify or approve the new Constitution.
• People who liked the new government were called Federalists.
  – They preferred a strong national government
• People who were against the new government were called anti-Federalists.
  – They preferred a weak national government and stronger states

Hi-lite: What was the difference between Federalists and Anti-federalists?
• List 2 accomplishments of the government under the Articles of Confederation:
  – Won the American Revolution
  – Created rules for statehood (NW Ordinance)

• List 3 weaknesses of the American government under the Articles of Confederation:

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• Why was Shay’s Rebellion important in the creation of a new American government?

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• The Constitutional Convention met to fix the Articles of Confederation. What did the Convention do instead?

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• How many states had to ratify the Constitution?
Shared Ideas of the Framers

- **A Republic style of Government** means citizens choose representatives to promote their interests in the government.
- **Rule of Law** means those who govern and those who are governed must follow the rules and laws.
  - Men don’t rule a country, the law, under the Constitution, does.

Hi-lite:
- What is a Republic?
- What is Rule of Law?
Shared Ideas of the Framers

• The **Social Contract** means the people agree to give power to their rulers. In exchange, the rulers agree to **protect** the people’s rights.

• **Popular Sovereignty** means the **people** rule.
  – “People Power!”

**Hi-lite:**
• The idea of a Social Contract.
• People _________
Shared Ideas of the Framers

• Separation of Power means to create different branches, or parts, in a government.

• Checks and Balances means each branch of government can limit the power of the other branches.
  – No group can have too much power in the government.

Hi-lite: Why are checks and balances important?
• Briefly explain a Republic:

• Why is the idea of Rule of Law important?

• What is the agreement between the ruler and the ruled in the Social Contract?

• How does the idea of checks and balances in a government work?

• Briefly, Popular Sovereignty means ____________________________

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Password: Big Ideas

- Republic
- Rule of Law
- Social Contract
Password: Big Ideas

- Popular Sovereignty
- Separation of Powers
- Checks and Balances
First Government

• Shays’ Rebellion
• Articles of Confederation
• Constitutional Convention
• James Madison
First Government

- Northwest Ordinance
- Great Compromise
- 3/5th Compromise
- Federalists