

# CHAPTER 2 Origins of American Government

## Warmup

**Q** How does the Constitution reflect the times in which it was written?

**A.** What do you know about the times in which the Constitution was written? Write T (True), F (False), or NS (Not sure) for each statement below.

1. \_\_\_\_ Each of the thirteen colonies had its own legislature that enacted laws.
2. \_\_\_\_ In the mid-1700s, Great Britain's parliament took little part in the local affairs of the colonies.
3. \_\_\_\_ In the 1760s, Great Britain's harsh tax and trade policies fanned colonial resentment.
4. \_\_\_\_ The Declaration of Independence outlined the colonial grievances against Great Britain.
5. \_\_\_\_ The colonies adopted constitutions after the Declaration of Independence was signed.
6. \_\_\_\_ The Articles of Confederation set up the first National Government after independence.
7. \_\_\_\_ Government under the Articles of Confederation had no executive or judiciary branches.
8. \_\_\_\_ The Articles of Confederation gave the Congress no power to tax.
9. \_\_\_\_ Slavery was an important issue at the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
10. \_\_\_\_ All Framers were satisfied with the compromises that resulted in the new Constitution.

## CHAPTER

## 2

## PREREADING AND VOCABULARY

## Origins of American Government

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## A. Synonyms

**Directions:** Use a dictionary to look up the bold words in the sentences below. Write a synonym for each word on the line provided. Read the sentence with your synonym substituted for the bold word to make sure it makes sense.

1. Among Mary's **grievances** with her parents were the lack of an allowance and not enough computer time.

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2. The states had to **ratify** the new Constitution.

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3. The two friends came to a **compromise** in their argument over what movie to see.

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## B. Matching

**Directions:** Match the definition in Column I with the term in Column II. Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided. You may use a dictionary to look up definitions.

## Column I

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. goods bought from foreign countries  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. a person chosen to speak or act for others  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. men who fought in the Revolutionary War  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. legislature made up of two houses  
\_\_\_\_\_ 8. goods sold to foreign countries  
\_\_\_\_\_ 9. a written plan  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10. person living in a new land who has ties with the home country

## Column II

- a. bicameral  
b. charter  
c. colonist  
d. delegate  
e. exports  
f. imports  
g. minutemen

**CHAPTER**  
**2**  
**DECLARATION**

**PREREADING AND VOCABULARY WORKSHEET**

**The Declaration of Independence**

**2**

The 15 words listed below appear in the first three sentences of the Declaration of Natural Rights. As you read those three sentences, try to figure out the meaning of each word. Then write the word in front of the matching definition below.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. self-evident | 9. destructive |
| 2. endowed      | 10. ends       |
| 3. inalienable  | 11. alter      |
| 4. pursuit      | 12. abolish    |
| 5. secure       | 13. foundation |
| 6. instituted   | 14. principles |
| 7. deriving     | 15. effect     |
| 8. consent      |                |

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | started; set up; established                   |
| _____ | not able to be given to another, or taken away |
| _____ | to ban; to put an end to                       |
| _____ | obvious; needing no explanation                |
| _____ | goals  |
| _____ | provided with; given                           |
| _____ | damaging; hurtful                              |
| _____ | search   |
| _____ | base; center                                   |
| _____ | to make safe                                   |
| _____ | beliefs; values                                |
| _____ | getting  |
| _____ | to bring about; to cause                       |
| _____ | permission; authority                          |
| _____ | to change                                      |

**CHAPTER****2****CHAPTER OUTLINE****Origins of American Government****2**

**Directions:** Fill in the outline below. Filling in the blanks will help you as you read and study Chapter 2.

**I. Section 1: Our Political Beginnings****A. Basic Concepts**

1. The colonists wanted a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ government that could not take away basic individual rights.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ government gives people a say in government decisions.

**B. Landmark English Documents**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was signed by King John. It limited the king's power.
2. Parliament passed the English \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1689. It gave the people certain rights.

**C. The Thirteen Colonies**

1. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ were proprietary colonies.
2. Two colonies that governed themselves were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Section 2: The Coming of Independence****A. British Colonial Policies**

1. The British tried to raise money by \_\_\_\_\_ the colonists.
2. Some colonists boarded British ships and threw the tea overboard during the \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. The First Continental Congress**

Colonists protested the \_\_\_\_\_ by calling the First Continental Congress and refusing to buy anything from Britain.

## CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)

### Origins of American Government

2

#### C. The Second Continental Congress

1. The Second Continental Congress ran the government during the Revolutionary War. The group also wrote the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which said that all people have the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," was signed on July 4, 1776.

#### D. The First State Constitutions

1. States held \_\_\_\_\_ to write and adopt their constitutions.
2. Most state constitutions gave the \_\_\_\_\_ most of the power.

### III. Section 3: The Critical Period

#### A. Problems with the Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation had many weaknesses.

1. Congress could not raise \_\_\_\_\_ to pay debts.
2. Congress had no power to regulate \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Need for a Stronger Government

Congress called the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to revise the Articles of Confederation.

### IV. Section 4: Creating the Constitution

#### A. Plans of Government

1. The Virginia Plan called for a strong central government with a \_\_\_\_\_ legislature.
2. The New Jersey Plan called for a unicameral Congress with the states represented \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)**

**Origins of American Government**

**2**

**B. Convention Compromises**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Compromise settled the issue of how the states would be represented in Congress.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ settled the problem of how slaves would be counted.

**V. Section 5: Ratifying the Constitution**

**A. Ratification**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ wanted the Constitution to be \_\_\_\_\_ because it provided for a strong national government.
2. Anti-Federalists \_\_\_\_\_ the Constitution because they thought it would take too much power away from the states.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ guarantees Americans freedom of speech, religion, and the press.

**B. The New Government**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first President of the United States.
2. The first capital was located in \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHAPTER**  
**2**  
**SECTION 1**

**READING COMPREHENSION**

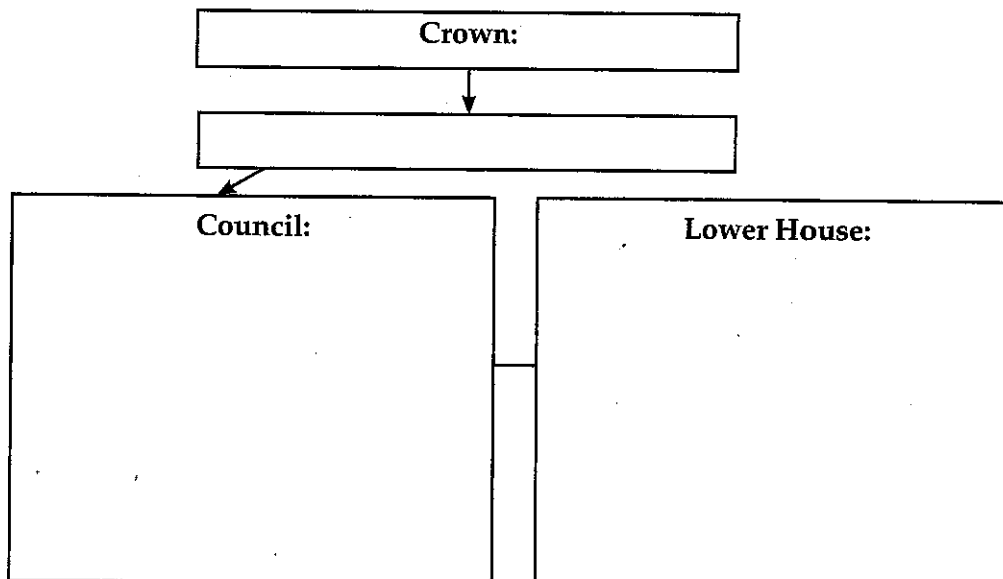
**Our Political Beginnings**

**3**

1. Complete the chart below by filling in the date, the democratic reforms, and the significance of each landmark document.

<b>Magna Carta</b>	<b>Petition of Right</b>	<b>English Bill of Rights</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Democratic Reforms:</b>	<b>Democratic Reforms:</b>	<b>Democratic Reforms:</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>Significance:</b>	<b>Significance:</b>

2. Fill in the organization chart below to show the structure of the royal colony governments and the key features of each part.



**READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**

**The Coming of Independence**

**2**

5. In 1775, the 13 American colonies were either royal colonies, proprietary colonies, or charter colonies. Write the names of the colonies in the chart below.

Royal Colonies	Proprietary Colonies	Charter Colonies



## CHAPTER

## 2

## SECTION 1

## CORE WORKSHEET

## Our Political Beginnings

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## How Important Are The Landmark Documents to Your Life Today?

**Part 1** Review the "Foundations of American Rights" chart in Section 1 of your textbook. Some of these rights were established in the Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights, and others were established shortly after the Revolutionary War as the Framers worked to create the U.S. Constitution. Think about each right and the extent to which it affects your life today. Use your ideas to complete the chart below.

Rights	Impact on Personal Life	When Might It Affect You?
Trial by jury		
Due process		
Right to private property		
No cruel punishment		
No excessive bail or fines		
Right to bear arms		
Right to petition the government		
No unreasonable searches and seizures		
Freedom of speech		
Freedom of the press		
Freedom of religion		

**CORE WORKSHEET (continued)**

**Our Political Beginnings**

**3**

**Part 2** Answer the following questions.

1. To what extent are the landmark documents crucial to the freedoms you hold most dear?

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2. Could the Revolutionary War have occurred without these documents?

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3. How have these documents influenced your State and Federal Government?

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