

Second Grade “American Government: The Constitution” Assessment

- 1a. Why did the United States need something to unite them?
- a. The British were trying to keep them apart.
 - b. Each state tried to make its own rules and money.

- 1b. Why did the United States need something to unite them?
- a. Everyone wanted to be a king.
 - b. The British were trying to keep them apart.
 - c. Each state tried to make its own rules and money.
 - d. They wanted to continue to fight other countries.

- 1c. What were the advantages to the states if they united together?

- 2a. Who was called “Father of the Constitution?”

- a. George Washington
- b. James Madison

- 2b. Who was called “Father of the Constitution?” Why was he called that?

- 2c. Who was called “Father of the Constitution?” How did he guide the Americans in creating the Constitution?

- 3a. What did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention do?

- a. Met to create a plan to unite the country.
- b. Told people about their own states.

- 3b. What did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention do?

- 3c. Why was it important that each state have delegates at the Constitutional Convention?

4a. What are the first three words to the Constitution?

- a. "We the People..."
- b. "I pledge allegiance..."

4b. Why are the words "We the People" so important in the Constitution?

- a. They are easy to remember.
- b. They show that the American people are united.
- c. They show that the Americans are people.
- d. They have never been used in England.

4c. What is meant by the phrase "We the People" that begins the Constitution?

5a. The _____ is the highest law in our land.

- a. Constitution
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

5b. The _____ is the highest law in our land.

- a. Constitution
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Declaration of Independence
- d. Louisiana Purchase

5c. What does it mean that the Constitution is the highest law of our land?

6a. What do we call the leader of the United States?

6b. How is a president different from a king?

6c. What do we call the leader of the United States? Why didn't the delegates to the Constitutional Convention want a king to lead the country?

7a. Why was the congress created?

- a. To give more power to the people.
- b. To create jobs for more people.

7b. Why was the congress created?

- a. To give more power to the people.
- b. To create jobs for more people.
- c. To make sure that the United States would have laws.
- d. To help the leaders stay powerful.

7c. What is the job of the people in the congress?

The following Colorado Model Content Standards are covered in this assessment by the questions indicated.

Questions 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c: History Standard 5.1. Students understand how democratic ideas and institutions in the United States have developed, changed, and/or been maintained.

Questions 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c: History Standard 5.2. Students know how various systems of government have developed and functioned throughout history.

Questions 6a, 6b, 6c: History Standard 5.3. Students know how political power has been acquired, maintained, used, and/or lost throughout history.

Questions 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c: Civics Standard 1.1. Students know and understand what government is and what purpose it serves.

Questions 6a, 6b, 6c: Civics Standard 1.2. Students know the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government.

Questions 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c: Civics Standard 1.3. Students understand the principles of the United States constitutional government.

Questions 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c: Civics Standard 2.2. Students know how power, authority, and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited through federalism as established by the United States Constitution.

Answer Key

- 1a. b.
1b. c.
1c. Acceptable answers could include:
-they are stronger in case of attack
-they can trade goods more easily
-they can work together to get what they need
- 2a. b. James Madison
2b. Acceptable answers could include:
-James Madison
-many of his ideas are in it
-he worked hard to make sure it was written
2c. Acceptable answers could include any of the ideas listed in 2b.
- 3a. a.
3b. Acceptable answers could include:
-they met to come up with a plan to unite the nation
-they created laws and rights for the citizens of America
3c. Acceptable answers could include:
-all states should have a say in the decisions
-if any state did not help they might not remain united
-all states needed to voice their ideas
- 4a. “We the People”
4b. b.
4c. Acceptable answers could include:
-they show that America is united
-they show that the people of America are speaking with one voice
- 5a. a. Constitution
5b. a. Constitution
5c. Acceptable answers could include:
-of all the laws the Constitution is the most important, all the other laws are based on the Constitution
- 6a. President
6b. Acceptable answers could include:
-a king has absolute power and a president shares power
-a president is elected and a king is born to be a king
-a president is only president for up to 8 years
-a king is a king until he dies
6c. Acceptable answers could include:
-president
-they didn’t want one person to have absolute power over them

- they wanted the people to have a voice in the government
- they wanted to have a balance of power

7a. a.

7b. a.

7c. Acceptable answers could include:

- to make laws
- to work with the president
- to listen to the people