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| **SS.7.C.1.5** **Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.** | |
| **Questions** | **Civics Learning Targets** |
|  | **I can define the following and express their meaning**   * Articles of Confederation - the first constitution of the United States * Confederation - a system of government where power is located with the independent states and there is little power in the central government * Federalism: a system of government where power is shared between a national government and state governments. National government has more power than the states. * Constitutional Convention - a meeting in Philadelphia in 1787 where delegates decided to throw out the Articles of Confederation and draft the Constitution * Debt - something owed; such as money   **I can identify the weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation**  Congress had no power to   * Tax (couldn’t raise money to pay off debt or fund a military to protect the US) * Regulate trade (could not enforce trade/commerce laws)   The national government lacked the following:   * A national court system [judicial branch] (could not settle disputes between states) * Central leadership [executive branch] (no president to lead the nation) * Enforcement of its laws (no executive branch allowed states to ignore the laws the confederation congress created)   Congress was **too strict:**   * Changes to the Articles required unanimous consent of the 13 states (All 13 states had to agree before a change could be made. This made changing the articles almost impossible)   **I can explain Shay's Rebellion and how it showed a weakness in the Articles of Confederation.**   * 2000 Massachusetts farmers rebelled because they felt they were being unfairly taxed after the Revolutionary War. Massachusetts asked for help from the Confederation Congress, but the Congress did not have enough money to raise an army to deal with the rebellion. The states and Congress realized the current government was too weak to protect its own citizens, settle disputes, or enforce its laws.   **I understand how the weaknesses of the Articles led to the writing of the US Constitution**   * **The central government was too weak** to neither protect its citizens nor unify the states together under a common set of rules/laws. **The framers of the Constitution addressed all of the weaknesses by adding their solutions to the document.** |
| **SS.7.C.1.8**  **Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.** | |
|  | **I can define ratification.**  **-** the process of formally approving something  **I can explain who Anti-Federalists were**   * The Anti-Federalists are people who **oppose** the ratification of the Constitution. They did not want a powerful central government. They wanted the states to not lose any power and they wanted rights for the citizens to be protected and added to the Constitution.   **I can explain what the Anti-Federalists papers were.**  Anti-Federalists wrote essays and newspaper articles to spread their point of view against the ratification of the constitution.  **I can explain the viewpoints of the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.**   * The Constitution gave too much power to the national government. * That the legislative and executive branches were too powerful. * That the Constitution lacked a specific listing of rights. (Bill of Rights)   **I can explain who the Federalists were.**  The Federalists were the people who supported the ratification of the Constitution. They wanted a strong central government that would share certain powers with the states.  **I can explain what the Federalists papers were.**  The main arguments in favor of ratifying the Constitution were stated in a series of essays.  **I can explain the viewpoints of the Federalists regarding the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.**   * That the Constitution (strong national government) was necessary in order to protect the liberty and independence that was gained from the American Revolution. * They believed separation of powers and that the powers not given to the national government were those of the states (since each state had a bill of rights, they did not need to include a national one. * They also believed that a listing of rights can be a dangerous thing because you cannot list them all and people would be in a constant state of conflict if their rights weren’t listed.   **I can explain the Anti-Federalists’ reasons for wanting to include of a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution.**   * **They believed that a bill of rights was essential to protect the people from the federal government.** The Anti-Federalists did not want a powerful national government taking away their rights. |
| **SS.7.C.1.6 Interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution** | |
|  | **I can define the following and express their meaning**  Defense - method of protecting oneself  Domestic - referring to something at home, not foreign  insure - ensure, to make sure  justice - a system of establishing what is legal and illegal by fair rules  ordain - to establish something by law  posterity - future generations  tranquility - peace  union - something formed by combining parts, such as states into one country  welfare - well-being  **I can explain what the preamble is and what it does.**  The preamble is the introduction to the US Constitution and establishes the goals and purposes of the government.  **I can identify the goals and purposes of government as set forth in the Preamble of**  **the U.S. Constitution.**   * form a more perfect union - to make things better for all * establish justice - to make a fair and honest system for all * ensure domestic tranquility - to create peace in the country * provide for the common defense - to protect the country from harm * promote the general welfare - to create a better life for all * secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity - to secure our   freedoms for our generation and all future generations  **I can explain what the phrase “We the People” means.**  “We the People” means that government depends on the people for its power and  exists to serve the people. |
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