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WEEK 2

Grade 5 Civics and Government Constitution Reading

Standards:

SS.5.C.1.2 Define a constitution, and discuss its purposes.

SS.5.C.1.3 Explain the definition and origin of rights.

SS.5.C.1.4 Identify the Declaration of Independence's grievances and Articles of Confederation's weaknesses.

SS.5.C.2.3 Analyze how the Constitution has expanded voting rights from our nation's early history to today.

SS.5.C.2.4 Evaluate the importance of civic responsibilities in American democracy.

Florida Statutes (1003.42):

(b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and amendments...

(s)... The character development curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotism; **responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property;** honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation...

Resources:
Floridacitizen.org
Easyteacherworksheets.com
K12reader.com
ReadWorks.org

Some of the Grievances in the Declaration of Independence

Directions: Write the main idea of the grievance then use evidence to support your main idea.

1. Text from the Declaration of Independence - He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

Translation	He tried to force men to give up their right to make laws.
What is the main idea of this grievance?	King George III tried to force colonists to give up their right to make laws.
What quote from the original text supports your conclusion?	“unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature”

2. Text from the Declaration of Independence - He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

Translation	King George III would break up colonial governments for various reasons and would not allow colonies to have the right to govern.
What is the main idea of this grievance?	
What quote from the original text supports your conclusion?	

3. Text from the Declaration of Independence - He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

Translation	He won't let us choose our own judges, and instead he chooses them all himself, so they're all on his side.	
What are the main ideas of this grievance?		
What quotes from the original text supports your conclusion?		

4. Text from the Declaration of Independence - He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures...For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

Translation	He sends lots of English soldiers here when there isn't even a war, and makes us let them live in our own houses.	
What are the main ideas of this grievance?		
What quotes from the original text supports your conclusion?		

5. Text from the Declaration of Independence - For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

Translation	He makes us pay all kinds of taxes without asking us about it.	
What is the main idea of this grievance?		
What quote from the original text supports your conclusion?		

6. Text from the Declaration of Independence - For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

Translation	He won't let us have a jury for our trials, only a judge.	
What is the main idea of this grievance?		
What quote from the original text supports your conclusion?		

7. The last paragraph of the Declaration of Independence states that the colonists believe they should become independent states and free from Great Britain. How do the grievances you have learned about support this statement?

Founding Fathers



The Fathers of our country are the men who signed the Declaration of Independence and/or the United States Constitution. They were also known as patriots, people who wanted to be independent from England in the 1700's. The Founding Fathers had strong educational backgrounds. Some, like Franklin, were largely self-taught or learned through apprenticeship. Others had obtained instruction from private tutors or at academies. About half of the men had attended or graduated from college in the colonies or Britain. Some men held medical degrees or advanced training in theology. For the most part, the delegates were a well-educated group. A few lawyers had been trained at the Inns of Court in London, but most had trained to be an American Lawyer. Some of the well-known Founding Fathers of the United States is: John Adams, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and Thomas Jefferson.

1. Who are the Founding Fathers of the United States?
2. What were these Founding Fathers also known as?
3. Where had some lawyers been trained?
4. Name 2 of the well known Founding Fathers of the United States.

Dear King George

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



In the late 1700s the American colonists were unhappy with King George III of England. They didn't think he was doing what a good leader should do. He charged unfair taxes, would not allow trade with other countries and made colonists open their homes for soldiers to live with them. Colonists felt very far away from their king. Something needed to change. The colonists began to rebel.

The Second Continental Congress formed in 1775 after fighting began in the American Revolution. Made up of delegates from the 13 American colonies, the Congress met in Philadelphia to lead the colonies toward independence. In 1776, a committee of the Congress selected Thomas Jefferson to write a letter to King George III. Jefferson had already proven himself to be an honorable and knowledgeable man. He was also an excellent writer.

The letter was a dangerous thing, because it would be considered treason by the king. The Congress was opposing their lawful ruler. People who were associated with this letter could be imprisoned or killed for saying they wanted to be independent from the king.

Jefferson's historic letter became known as the Declaration of Independence. It listed all the reasons that the colonists thought the king was not a very good king. It said that the king and the colonists should break their relationship with each other, and each should go their own way.

Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the members of the Second Continental Congress signed it at the bottom. One of the men would become famous for his signature. John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, signed in large, bold letters. His name has become a synonym for signature.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

2) What was the Second Continental Congress?

3) Why would sending the letter be considered treason?

4) Name one thing King George was doing that the colonists considered unfair.

5) What was John Hancock's position in the Second Continental Congress?

The Constitution Tells the States Who Has the Right to Vote

by Judith Schiffer

The United States is a "Federal Republic." This means that power, like the power to pass laws, is shared between the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., and the governments of each of the 50 states. The Federal Government has certain powers, and the states (and their local governments, like cities and towns) have certain powers. The Constitution of the United States sets out which powers belong to the Federal Government, and which powers belong to the states.

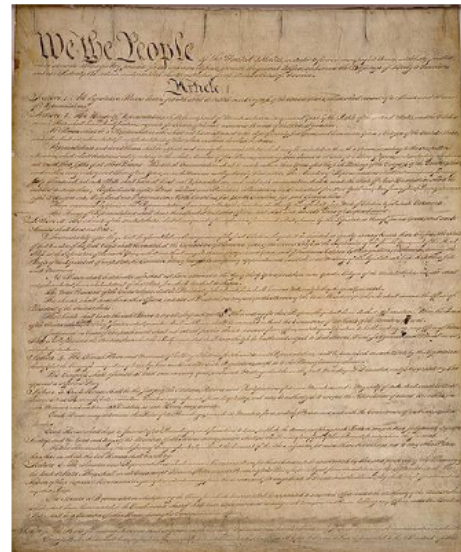
The United States Constitution is the highest law of the land. One of the things it does is to tell the 50 states what they *must do*, and also what they *are not permitted to do*.

The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it, and it also tells them what they *are not allowed to do* in conducting elections. For example, states are not allowed to reject people who have the right to vote in an election.

The Constitution says that to be allowed to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States. You are a U.S. citizen automatically if you are born in the United States. There are also ways to become a U.S. citizen if you were not born there. One of the ways is a process called "naturalization."

Not all citizens are allowed to vote. For example, a ten-year-old may not vote. For much of early U.S. history mostly white men who were at least 21 years old had the right to vote. Other groups, such as women, were not allowed to vote.

Since then, the rules about who has the right to vote for president and other elected officials have changed, with more groups of American citizens being given this right. These changes were the result of additions, or "amendments," to the Constitution. Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution, and three of them have to do with who has the right to



The Constitution of the United States

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The Constitution Tells the States Who Has the Right to Vote

vote. These three Amendments prohibit the states from denying the right to vote to some groups of citizens. These three groups are African Americans, women, and people who are 18 to 20 years old. Over time, each of these groups was given the right to vote.

In addition, elected officials in Congress have passed laws so that citizens with voting rights can vote. One law makes it illegal for the states to do anything that prevents or makes it especially difficult for these citizens to vote. But some of the states found ways to prevent some citizens from voting, even though they had the Constitutional right to do so. For example, after former African American slaves were allowed to vote, some states did not want them to vote. So they required voters to be able to read and write. They knew that recently freed slaves were prevented from learning to read and write by their former owners.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the text, what does the federal government of the United States share with the 50 state governments?

- A. power
- B. money
- C. voting rights
- D. companies

2. What does the text list and describe?

- A. powers the president has
- B. what the Constitution say about voting rights
- C. the Bill of Rights of the Constitution
- D. facts about the creation of the Constitution

3. The rights of African American voters have been threatened in the United States. What evidence from the text best supports this statement?

- A. The Constitution says that to be allowed to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States.
- B. The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it.
- C. Some states required voters be able to read and write to prevent former African American slaves from voting.
- D. The voting rights of African Americans have been addressed in the Constitution.

4. Based on the text, to whom did the Constitution give voting rights when it was first written?

- A. white men and women who were at least 21 years old
- B. black men who were at least 21 years old
- C. Native American males who were at least 21 years old
- D. white men who were at least 21 years old

5. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. The federal government of the United States has certain powers, and the 50 states have certain powers.
- B. The United States Constitution includes laws about who can vote but gives states the power to conduct elections.
- C. Some of the 50 states have found ways to prevent some citizens from voting, even though they had the Constitutional right to do so.
- D. Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution, and three of them have to do with who has the right to vote.

6. Read the following sentences from the text.

"The Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it, and it also tells them *what they are not allowed to do* in conducting elections. For example, states are not allowed to reject people who have the right to vote in an election."

Based on the text, what does the word "conduct" most nearly mean?

- A. to lead or manage
- B. to carry electricity
- C. to stop or prevent
- D. to make popular

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Constitution

The United States Constitution tells the 50 states what they *must do*, and also what they *are not permitted* to do. _____, the Constitution gives the states the power to conduct elections and to make their own rules about how they do it

- A. However
- B. In conclusion
- C. On the other hand
- D. For example

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The Constitution Tells the States Who Has the Right to Vote - Comprehension Questions

8. Three amendments of the Constitution have given voting rights to different groups of people. Who are these three groups of people?

9. Why did some states require voters be able to read and write?

10. Explain how the right to vote in the United States is impacted by the Constitution and the 50 states. Use information from the text to support your answer.
