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# Foundations of American Government

American Government Unit Companion

**Directions**

* Complete Prepare and Strategies for Success sections before you begin a unit.
* Complete Summaries and Reflect and Review sections before you take the unit assessment.
* For more details about each section, return to the course overview unit.

## Prepare icon. Prepare

Throughout the Foundations of American Government unit, you will explore the following Essential Questions.

### Essential question icon. Essential Questions

* What is the fundamental role of government?
* What is the relationship between a government and its people?
* What factors lead to a successful government?

In Lessons 1–4, you will learn about the following topics:

* theories from throughout history on the purpose of government
* fundamental differences between different types of government
* the core concepts of democracy and its origins

At the end of Lesson 4, you will take a cumulative quiz.

In Lessons 5–7, you will learn about the following topics:

* British colonial rule in the Americas
* primary factors leading to the American Revolution
* major influences on the Declaration of Independence

At the end of Lesson 7, you will take a cumulative quiz.

In Lessons 8–11, you will learn about the following topics:

* problems facing the United States after independence
* deal-making at the Constitutional Convention
* the nuts and bolts of the new Constitution
* how government power is divided and shared under the Constitution

At the end of Lesson 11, you will take a cumulative quiz.

In Lessons 12–15, you will learn about the following topics:

* system of federalism and how power is divided in the U.S. Constitution
* the process of becoming an American citizen
* steps in writing a 5-paragraph essay using primary sources
* understanding how citizenship relates to the Constitution

You will complete a portfolio assignment in Lesson 14.

In Lesson 16, you will take a cumulative test.

## Strategies for success icon. Strategies for Success

### Analyze Cause and Effect

Throughout this unit, you will analyze cause-and-effect relationships. You will look closely at how historical events are connected and how they shape the way American government functions today. How did the theories of various philosophers impact the founding fathers and in turn impact American citizens today?

Word signals can help you determine if the text you are reading is about cause-and-effect relationships. Just like traffic signals communicate to drivers and pedestrians, word signals communicate to readers.

#### Word Signals

Green, yellow, and red traffic light signals tell drivers when to go, yield, and stop. Similarly, certain words in a text signal readers when causes and effects are present.

##### Causes

Words such as reason, because, led to, and catalyst forsignal causes. When you read these words, pause to look closely at the related events. Make sure there is evidence showing that the earlier events caused the later events and did not just happen earlier.

For example, in the following sentence, led tosignals a cause-and-effect relationship.

John Locke’s Two Treatises of Government was one of the many documents that influenced and **led to** the formation of the Declaration of Independence.

**Cause:** John Locke’s Two Treatises of Government

**Effect:** Declaration of Independence

You will learn more about the Bill of Rights in Lesson 7.

#### Effects

Words such as so, therefore, and as a result signal effects. When you read these words, pause to look closely at the related events, too. Make sure that there is evidence showing that these later events were caused by earlier events and did not just happen later.

For example, in the following sentence, as a resultsignals a cause-and-effect relationship.

During the Second Continental Congress, delegates debated the best structure for the new national government, as well as specific issues such as how much money each state would owe the treasury and how much voting power each state would have in Congress. As a result, the Articles of Confederation were written.

**Cause:** Second Continental Congress debates

**Effect:** Articles of Confederation

You will learn more about the Articles of Confederation in Lesson 8.

Active reading takes time and practice. Look at an example of how you should read your text for clues to understanding causes and effects. Access the “Analyze Cause and Effect” 21st Century Skill Video through the Web Links resource by selecting the backpack icon. As you access the video, notice how the student reads the text carefully by doing the following:

* paying attention to word signals like as a result and led to
* asking questions to make sure there is a strong connection between events

This is the approach you should take when reading your primary documents.

 Summaries

You may read summaries of the Magruder’s American Government textbook pages assigned in each lesson. Decide whether you want to read them before, during, or after a lesson.

* Read before a lesson to preview the most important information ahead of time, including people, places, and events.
* Read during or after a lesson to review Magruder’s American Government pages without rereading every word.

Access the American Government Summaries through the Web Links resource by selecting the backpack icon. Read the corresponding summary with the lesson.

* Lesson 1: Foundations of American Government Overview
* Lesson 2: Natural Law, Government, and the State
* Lesson 3: President or King? Different forms of Government
* Lesson 4: Concepts of Democracy
* Lesson 5: A Special Relationship – Colonies and the Crown
* Lesson 6: The Road to Revolution
* Lesson 7: The Declaration of Independence
* Lesson 8: Articles of Confederation
* Lesson 9: Debate and Compromise – Framing the Constitution
* Lesson 10: Principles of the Constitution
* Lesson 11: Constitutional Change and the Formal Amendment
* Lesson 12: States’ Rights and the Division of Powers
* Lesson 13: More Than a Label – American Citizenship

 Reflect and Review

Before the unit assessment, use the checklist to reflect on what you have learned throughout the Foundations of American Government unit. This will help determine what content to review to prepare for the multiple question types on the assessment.

1. Read each of the statements.
2. If you agree with the statement, check the box.
3. Revisit statements that you did not check. Return to the lesson resources to review the content. Study the key words using the Glossary.

### Statements

| **[✓]** | **Statement** | **Key Words** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | I can explain the foundation and principles of democracy. | * democracy * direct democracy * indirect democracy | * Lesson 4: Magruder’s American Government: Foundations of Government and Citizenship>Origins of the Modern Democratic State>American Government—Building on the Past * Lesson 4: Flipped Video: “Origins of the Modern Democratic State” |
|  | I can describe the European philosophical influences on the American government, including the following:   * Baron Montesquieu * John Locke | * social contract theory * English Bill of Rights * natural rights * separation of powers * popular sovereignty * limited government | * Lesson 2: My Story Video: “John Locke, Natural Rights” * Lesson 4: Magruder’s American Government: The Beginnings of American Government>Origins of American Political Ideals> Influential Documents and Ideas * Lesson 4: Interactive Review: Influential English Documents * Lesson 7: Magruder’s American Government: The Beginnings of American Government > Independence > The Declaration of Independence |
|  | I can compare and contrast different forms of government. | * parliamentary system * presidential system | * Lesson 3: Magruder’s American Government: Foundations of Government > Types of Government > Legislative and Executive Branches |
|  | I can explain the major events leading to the American Revolution. | * First Continental Congress | * Lesson 6: Magruder’s American Government The Beginnings of American Government > Independence > The First Continental Congress |
|  | I can identify the powers each government holds. | * government | * Lesson 1: Magruder’s American Government   Foundations of Government > Principles of Government > What Government Does |
|  | I can explain the system of federalism and how power is divided and shared between the federal government and states. | * federalism * Supremacy Clause * expressed powers * implied powers * concurrent powers | * Lesson 12: Flipped Video “Federalism - Powers Divided” * Lesson 12: Magruder’s American Government The Constitution > Federalism: Powers Divided > What Is Federalism? * Lesson 12: Magruder’s American Government The Constitution > Federalism: Powers Divided > Three Types of Federal Powers * Lesson 12: Magruder’s American Government The Constitution > Federalism: Powers Divided > Interactive Gallery: Powers Reserved to the States * Lesson 12: Magruder’s American Government The Constitution > Federalism: Powers Divided > Powers Denied to the Federal Government * Lesson 12: Magruder’s American Government The Constitution > Federalism: Powers Divided > The Exclusive and Concurrent Powers |
|  | I can describe the process by which the Constitution can be amended. | * formal amendment | * Lesson 11: Flipped Video “Amending the Constitution” * Magruder’s American Government: The Constitution > Amending the Constitution > Formal Amendment Process |
|  | I can explain how the U.S. Constitution limits government and creates a system of checks and balances. | * separation of powers * legislative branch * executive branch * judiciary branch * judicial review | * Lesson 10: Flipped Video: “Principles of the Constitution” * Lesson 10: Magruder’s American Government: The Constitution > More Basic Principles |

| **[✓]** | **Statement** | **Key Words** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | I can explain how weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation required a new Constitution. | * ratification | * Lesson 8: Magruder’s American Government: The Beginnings of American Government > First Steps > The Articles of Confederation * Lesson 8: Magruder’s American Government: The Beginnings of American Government > First Steps > A Demand for Stronger Government |
|  | I can explain that the different views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists required many compromises. | * ratification * Federalists * Anti-Federalist | * Lesson 9: Magruder’s American Government: The Beginnings of American Government > Creating and Ratifying the Constitution > Debates and Compromises |
|  | I can explain how a person can become an American citizen. | * citizen * jus soli * jus sanguinis * naturalization | * Lesson 13: Magruder’s American Government: Citizenship and Civil Rights > American Citizenship > Flipped Video: American Citizenship |