



'Review' Section

In the last course we learned about the American Revolutionary War. We learned about how the Continental Army was defeated at the Battle of Long Island, but still showed unwavering commitment to freedom at the Staten Island Peace Conference. After being pushed out of New Jersey and into Pennsylvania, George Washington and his Continental Army started the fightback by crossing the Delaware and then defeating the British at the Battle of Princeton.

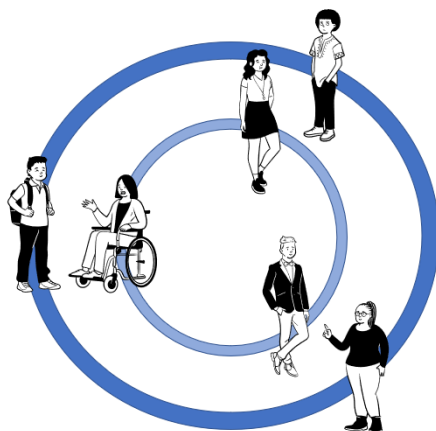
[Objectives] Upon successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Understand the concept of the Constitution and its synonyms.
2. Understand how the Constitution exists to serve the people of the United States.
3. Understand the importance of separating the powers of government.
4. Understand the roles of the different branches of the federal government.

Summary & Application

In this course we are going to learn about the Constitution and how it established the United States' fundamental laws and guaranteed certain basic rights for its citizens – “We the People of the United States.” We will learn about how powers were separated across government; the legislative branch responsible for making laws, the executive branch for carrying out laws, and the judicial branch for upholding laws. We will also learn about the Bill of Rights, in particular the first three amendments that serve as safeguards for our freedoms.

LITTLEPATRIOTS





The Pillars our Nation were Founded Upon:

- This course section is designed to help students review the foundational/pillar concepts Little Patriots was founded on. These concepts underpin the stories, facts, and information in the course, and each is presented for content understanding and application.
 - **Use the definitions offered below as a starting point for the discussion of each pillar.*
 - **Faith Defined:** In its most general sense, faith means much the same thing as trust. Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Faith helps you believe things you cannot see or touch.
 - **Community Defined:** Community is a feeling and a set of relationships among people with diverse characteristics linked by social ties, share common perspectives and engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings. Trust, safety, teamwork, togetherness, and belonging are essential parts of a community and a 'sense of community.'
 - **Life Defined:** *The word 'life' can refer to a lifetime -- the period between birth and death. It also means experiencing reality by interacting authentically with the environment and others. Giving something back to the world through creativity and self-expression. Changing your attitude when faced with a situation or circumstance you cannot change is a good approach to life. Life always includes the amazing characteristics that make you who you are. No matter our differences, we all matter.*
 - **Liberty Defined:** Liberty represents freedom or a state of being free. Liberty is acting in ways that help you take control of your life and follow a new and perhaps different path than others before you.
- Student backgrounds and experiences will impact how they receive this possibly new information. These are lofty concepts for some kids, so please have them reflect on the definitions of the words provided – *extend and contextualize them as needed.*
- Also, learning happens when students can connect the information they already know and the new information they are presented with. Reviewing the material helps students make those connections.
- Read each section of text to the students (*or have them read it themselves*). Upon reading, ask the students questions to extend their thinking.

Focus Pillar: Why Liberty Matters

The word 'liberty' is an important word throughout the history of North America and Europe. Etymologists -- people who study the origin and history of words -- tell us it comes from the old Latin word 'libertas', which was also the name of the ancient goddess of freedom from tyranny.

'Liberty' means to have the power and will to live how you feel as though you should live. It means you are free to make your own choices, but within the bounds of existing laws and culture, of course! In other words, with great liberty comes great responsibility. For example, when we are expressing or practicing our liberty, we mustn't take away someone else's freedom (*or liberty*) or put them in harm's way.



In the country that we know today, there are many people from different countries, such as France, Great Britain, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Russia. All of these groups began moving to this country hundreds of years ago during the colonial period of American history. These influences meant there were many perspectives or ideas on what liberties the colonists should be able to enjoy. Unfortunately, those perspectives differed from those of the King of England, who owned and ruled the colonies at that time. Disagreements and conflicts over liberty followed. The English territories along the eastern coast of the North American continent comprised thirteen colonies, each with its own form of liberty.

Many of the early Americans, statesmen, and government leaders wanted some form of liberty. They wanted the liberty to make and enact laws and elect their own leaders. The American leaders also wanted the liberty to live the life they chose based on their own set of beliefs.

The word 'liberty' means to be free, to follow a new and perhaps different path than others before you. It provides the foundation for the things we enjoy as Americans and the Constitutional Rights we have as Americans.

Reflection Prompt:

Have you ever been part of a sports team or another kind of team where you have a captain? How important is it that the captain of that team has the support of their team-mates? Could a captain do their job without the support of their team-mates?

Again, thinking about being part of a sports team or another team, what are the risks involved with having one individual in complete control of everything? Of having one individual with absolute power and not sharing decision-making or responsibilities with anyone else?

Have you ever had any of your freedoms taken away? For example, have you ever been grounded by your parents? How did that make you feel?

Assessment Questions (answers in bold)

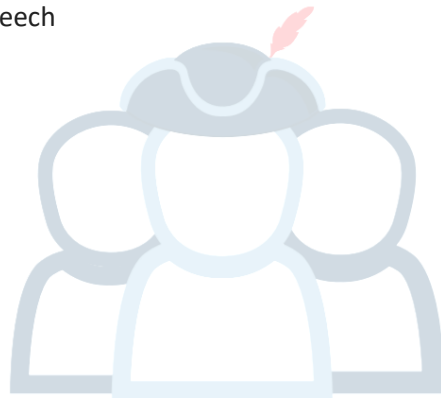
1. With what words does the Constitution begin?
 - a. We the Politicians of the United States
 - b. We the Government of the United States
 - c. We the Representatives of the United States
 - d. We the People of the United States**

2. Which of these are not part of the legislative branch of the federal government?
 - a. The House of Representatives
 - b. The Supreme Court**
 - c. Congress
 - d. The Senate

3. Which branch is responsible for carrying out laws?



- a. The legislative branch
 - b. The executive branch**
 - c. The judicial branch
 - d. The state branch
4. For how long do justices serve the Supreme Court?
- a. 2 years
 - b. 5 years
 - c. 10 years
 - d. For life**
5. The Second Amendment provides the right to what?
- a. To keep and bear arms**
 - b. To come together and protest
 - c. To religious freedom
 - d. To freedom of speech



LITTLEPATRIOTS