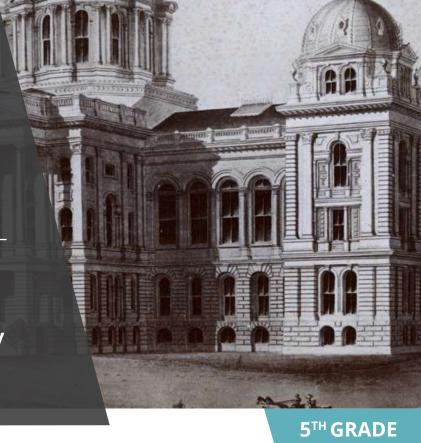
READ IOWA HISTORY

STUDENT MATERIALS



LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

What key documents establish the foundation of America's participatory democracy?







Founding Documents

The founding documents of the United States of America are: the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It was an official act taken by all 13 American colonies in declaring independence from Great Britain. People in the colonies were unhappy that they did not have a say in their government and still had to pay taxes. The Stamp Act of 1765 collected taxes on paper goods like legal documents, newspapers, and playing cards. In one act of protest, men dumped the cargo of a ship full of British tea into Boston Harbor in 1773; this is now called the Boston Tea Party. In 1775, the colonists went to war with Great Britain. The war between the colonies and Great Britain was called the American Revolutionary War from 1775-1783.

The Constitution

The Constitution of the United States is the foundation of the United States Government. It explains the system of Government and the rights of the American people. With three parts: The Preamble tells the purpose of the document and Government, the Articles set up how the Government is organized and how the Constitution can be changed, and the Amendments are changes to the Constitution. The first ten Amendments are called the Bill of Rights. The Constitution also created an executive branch and a judicial branch to set up a system of checks and balances. All three branches would have power, so no one branch could become more powerful than another. The Constitution was presented to the American public on September 17, 1787. The Constitution is known as a living document because it can be changed, or amended. Since its ratification, or formal approval, it has only been changed 27 times. Although it has been amended over the years, the Constitution's basic form still exists today.



AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

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Art. III. No softlar shall, in time of peace, be quarter without the consent of the owner; nor in time of **ar*, b' ob expressived by law.

Art. IV. The right of the people in his secure in their y day.

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The Bill of Rights

When the United States Constitution was approved in 1789, some people felt that it did not protect some basic rights and that the Constitution should be changed to protect those rights. On December 15, 1791, changes were made to the Constitution. These first 10 changes, or amendments, guaranteeing specific freedoms and rights; together they are called the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights includes some of the most basic freedoms and rights that we think of today in the United States. These are a few of the key ideas in each amendment:

- First Amendment: freedom of religion, speech, the press, and assembly
- Second Amendment: the right of the people to keep and bear arms
- Third Amendment: restricts housing soldiers in private homes
- Fourth Amendment: protects against unreasonable search and seizure
- Fifth Amendment: protects against self-testimony, being tried twice for the same crime, and the seizure of property under eminent domain
- Sixth Amendment: the rights to a speedy trial, trial by jury, and services of a lawyer
- Seventh Amendment: guarantees trial by jury in cases involving a certain dollar
- Eighth Amendment: prohibits excessive bail or fines and cruel and unusual punishment for crimes
- Ninth Amendment: listing of rights in Bill of Rights does not mean that other rights are not in effect
- Tenth Amendment: power not granted to the Federal Government is reserved for states or individual people

These three documents have secured the rights of the American people for more than two and a quarter centuries and are considered instrumental to the founding of the United States.

Vocabulary Words: Amendment, Articles, Bill of Rights, Constitution, Federal Government, Founding, Rights

Close Reading Strategy

Title of the text:		
1.	Read carefully to gain basic understanding. What is the text mainly about? What is the main idea? Write the main idea in the top margin in the clouds of the paper. <i>Highlight evidence in green.</i>	
2.	Read again and dig deeper. What are the big ideas that connect to the main idea? <i>Highlight evidence in yellow and write them on the note-taking sheet on the next page.</i>	
3.	Read again and dig for details. What are the details for your big ideas? <i>Highlight evidence in red and write them on your notetaking sheet.</i>	
4.	Read again to summarize your thinking. Summarize the article in five to seven sentences using your main idea, details, on your worksheet to determine key concepts and ideas. Write the summary on the back of the worksheet.	

Taking Notes about Founding Documents

The main idea is	
Big Idea: The Declaration of Independence	Details • • • • • • •
Big Idea: U.S. Constitution	Details • • • • • • • • • • • •
Big Idea: The Bill of Rights	Details • • • • • • • •
The concluding idea is	

Summary of Reading Passage

Write summary about **Founding Documents reading passage**.

George Mason

"That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amendable to them."

- George Mason, Virginia Bill of Rights, June 12, 1776

Vocabulary

- Power: ability to direct or influence the behavior of others
- Vested: to given or earned
- Consequently: as a result of
- Derived from: to gain or get
- The people: United States citizens
- Magistrates: a civil officer or judge
- Trustees: a person, often one of a group, who controls property or money for the benefit of another person or an organization
- Servants: a person who performs duties for others
- Amendable: to modify, rephrase, or add to or subtract from

What questions do you have about this quote?		

Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?

Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the way people make decisions about money.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.

Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change?
 Who didn't? Why?

Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?

"The Great Law of Peace" Video about Injunuinty, November 12, 2013



Courtesy of Vision Maker Media, "The Great Law of Peace - Injunuinty," Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 12 November 2013

Name	

Analyze a Video

Anticipate. What is the title?	What do you think you will see?		
Meet the Video. Type (check all that apply): O Animation O Newsreel O Commercial O Other	- 0	o Combat film o Entertainment	
Elements (check all that apply): O Music O Live action O Narration O Special effects O Background noise O Color O Black and White O Animation O Dramatizations			
What is the mood or tone?			
Observe its parts. <i>List the people, objects and activities you</i>	ı see.		
PEOPLE	PLACES	ACTIVITIES	
Write one sentence summarizing this video.			
Try to make sense of it. When is this video from? What was happening at the time in history it was created?			
Who made it? Who do you think is the intended audience?			
How do you think the creator wanted the audience to respond? List evidence from the video or your knowledge about who made it that led you to your conclusion.			
Use it as historical evidence. What did you find out from this video that you might not learn anywhere else?			
What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?			

Government, Democracy and Laws: Check for Understanding

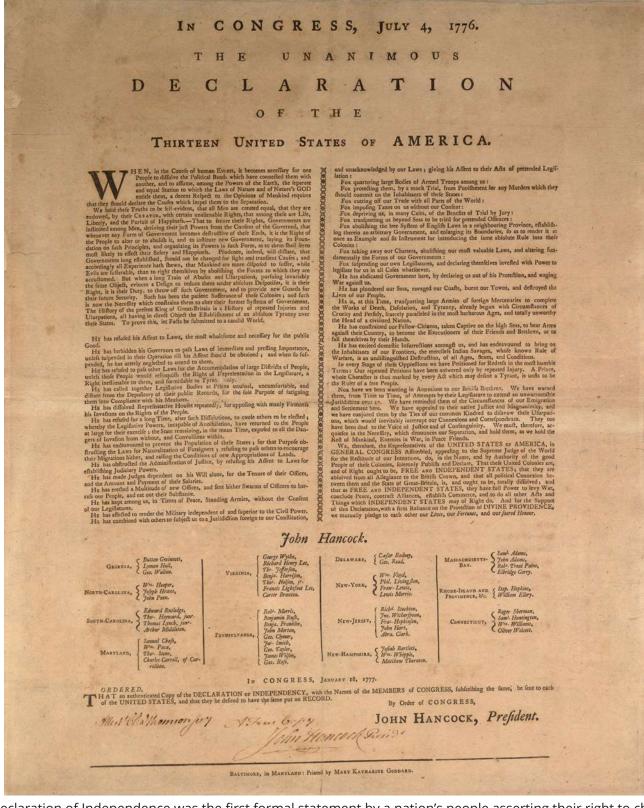
What key documents establish the foundation of America's participatory democracy?		
"The Great Law of Peace" Video about Injunuinty, November 12, 2013		
Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776		
Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, September 1787 WE, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, enablish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.		
U.S. Constitution, September 1787		
Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, September 25, 1789		

lowa Constitution, 1857	
Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, ca. 1900	

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, ca. 1900



Independence Hall can be considered as one of the birthplaces of the United States. In this building, the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed. The legacy of the nation's founding documents began here. It is a place that has influenced lawmakers around the world. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Independence Hall, Philadelphia," Detroit Publishing Co., ca. 1900*



The Declaration of Independence was the first formal statement by a nation's people asserting their right to choose their own government. When the first skirmishes of the Revolutionary War broke out in Massachusetts in April 1775, few people in the American colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain entirely. But as the war continued, and Britain called out massive armed forces to enforce its will, more and more colonists came to accept that asserting independence was the only way forward. And the Declaration of Independence would play a critical role in unifying the colonies for the bloody struggle they now faced. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America," 4 July 1776*

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The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America. The Constitution was originally created with seven articles, and it is the national frame of government. Its first three articles embody the principle of the separation of powers, where the federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, executive and judicial. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..." Constitutional Convention, 1787*

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The Congress hall have power to declare the punishment of treation, but no attainder of treation finally work
corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the late
of the perion stanasted.

A R T I C L E IV.

Scar. I. Full faith and credit shall be given in each
State to the public acids, records and judicial proceedings,
of every other stime. And the Congress may by general
laws prefer the the manner in which such acts, records
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The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America. The Constitution was originally created with seven articles, and it is the national frame of government. Its first three articles embody the principle of the separation of powers, where the federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, executive and judicial. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..." Constitutional Convention, 1787*

E, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The preamble is the opening statement to the U.S. Constitution. The preamble explains the reasons why the framers of the Constitution made the government a republic. The preamble, along with the rest of the U.S. Constitution, was written over a period of about six weeks, and it helped explain why the document was written. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, September 1787*

Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, **September 25, 1789**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.(a)

ART. I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

ART. II. A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be

infringed.

ART. III. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war, but in a manner

to be prescribed by law.

ART. IV. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated; and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. (b)

ART. V. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; (c) nor shall be compelled, in any criminal case, to be witness against himself; nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ART. VI. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

ART. VII. In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved; and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.(d)

ART. VIII. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ART. IX. The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ART. X. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Con-

Religion. Freedom of of petition.

Right to bear and keep arms.

Quartering of soldiers.

Unreasonable searches and seizures prohibited

No warrant to issue but on oath or affirmation,

Trials for capital offences, or infamous crimes.

No one to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, for the same offence.

Private prop erty not to be taken for public use without just compensation.

Trial by jury in criminal

Trial by jury in civil case Excessive bail not to be required, nor excessive punish-ments inflicted.

Enumeration of rights not to be construed to deny or disparage those re-tained by the people. Re-served powers.

On September 25, 1789, the first Congress of the United States proposed 12 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Ten of the proposed 12 amendments were ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures on December 15, 1791. The ratified articles (Articles 3-12) constitute the first 10 amendments of the Constitution or the U.S. Bill of Rights. In 1992, 203 years after it was proposed, Article 2 was ratified as the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. Article 1 was never ratified. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Madison, James, "Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," U.S. Congress, 25 September 1789

⁽a) The first ten of these amendments were proposed by Congress, (with others which were not ratified by three fourths of the legislatures of the several states,) by resolution of 1789, post, pp. 97, 98, and were ratified before 1791. The eleventh amendment was proposed by Congress by resolution of the year 1794, post, p. 402, and was ratified before 1796. The twelfth article was proposed by Congress by resolution of October, 1803, vol. 2, p. 306, and was ratified before September, 1804.

(b) Ex parte Burford, 3 Cranch, 448; 1 Cond. Rep. 594.

(c) United States v. Haskell and Francis, 4 Wash. C. C. R. 402. United States v. Gilbert, 2 Sumner's C. C. R. 19.

⁽d) The amendments to the Constitution of the United States, by which the trial by jury was secured, may, in a just sense, be well construed to embrace all suits which are not of equity or admiralty jurisdiction, whatever may be the form they may assume to settle legal rights. Parsons v. Bedford et al. 3

Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, September 25, 1789

22

power.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

stitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people.

ART. XI. The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign State.(a)

Election of President and Vice President of the U.S.

Limitation of the judicial

> ART. XII. § 1.(b) The electors shall meet in their respective States. and vote by ballot for President and Vice President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice President; and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President and of all persons voted for as Vice President, and of the number of votes for each, which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.

§ 2. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice President shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the Senate shall choose the Vice President: a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice.

§ 3. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice President of the United States.

(b) This amendment was proposed in October, 1803, and was ratified before September, 1804.

On September 25, 1789, the first Congress of the United States proposed 12 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Ten of the proposed 12 amendments were ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures on December 15, 1791. The ratified articles (Articles 3–12) constitute the first 10 amendments of the Constitution or the U.S. Bill of Rights. In 1992, 203 years after it was proposed, Article 2 was ratified as the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. Article 1 was never ratified. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Madison, James, "Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," U.S. Congress, 25 September 1789

⁽a) The amendment to the Constitution by which the judicial power was declared not to extend to any suit commenced or prosecuted by a citizen or citizens of another State, or by foreign subjects against a State, prevented the exercise of jurisdiction in any case past or future. Hollingsworth v. The State of Virginia, 3 Dall. 378; 1 Cond. Rep. 169.

Be an Image Detective!

Title:		What kind of image is it?	
Who made the image? What year?		photo drawing/cartoon painting advertisement something else	
Start with the Basics In one sentence, what is happening in this	Observe Look for the Details	Put the Pieces Together Where do you think this image takes place?	
image?	Describe what you see in the image.	What is its location?	
Is the image black & white color		What evidence tells you that?	
What does this tell us about when the image	What are the people doing in the image?	What time period?	
was made?		What evidence tells you that?	
Is there a caption? yes no	What are the objects used for in the image?	Why do you think this image was made?	
If so, what does the caption tell you?		How does this image compare to modern times?	
What questions does this image lead you to ask?			

Iowa's Constitution

When the U.S. Constitution was ratified by the 13 original states, lowa was not a state. It became a part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase in the early nineteenth century. The Territory of lowa was created in 1838. People who lived in the area voted down the proposition to become a state in 1840 and in 1842. They eagerly sought statehood, but opposed boundaries fixed by the U.S. Congress.

After people approved new boundaries, the first lowa Constitution (the Constitution of 1846) was written so that lowa could become a state. On December 3, 1846, in the Stone Capitol at lowa City, Ansel Briggs was inaugurated as first Governor of the State of lowa. A copy of the Constitution of lowa was sent to Washington, D.C. It was approved by Congress, and President James Polk gave his approval on December 28, 1846.

As the new state grew, the needs of its people changed. These new needs could not be met by the first constitution so a constitutional convention was called to write a new one.

No Money in Iowa

The main drawback of the first lowa constitution was that it did not allow banks that could print and issue money (these were called ''banks of issue"). Money in the 1840s was not like the money we use today. The United States government did not print paper money at all. Instead, it made gold and silver coins. Banks and businesses avoided this problem by printing notes (a kind of paper money) to use in place of gold or silver. In the 1840s and '50s, there were over 700

CONSTITUTION WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IOWA grateful to the Supreme Being for the blysings hitherte emeged and feeling on dependence in Wim for a continuation of the blue since, do cortain and establish a few and indefendent reversement, by the name of the State of Down, the boundaries whereof shall be as fellows . Degining in the middle of the main channel of the Mis sissippi River, at a point due Cast of the middle of the month of the main channel of the Ges Moines River, thence up the min de of the main channel of the said O ex Meines Siver, to a point on said river where the Wirthen boundary line of the State of Me from as established by the constitution of that Hale_adofted Franc 12th. 1920_cropes the said middle of the main channel of the said Ocs Mines River ; thence History by along the Said Northern boundary line of the State of this seuri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an estimation of said line intersects the middle of the main channel of the Kissouri River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Kipenri Hiver to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the Big Sines Mires necesting to olletts Map : thence up the main channel of the said this Theur Miver, according to the said map, until it is interested by the parallel of firty three decrees and thirty minutes, the latitude; thence East alone said farallet of firty three signs and thirty minutes until Said farallel into sects the midth the main channel of the Migripippi River; there derived withthe of the main channel of said Mipripip to him the

banks in the U. S. Many of these printed their own notes. The value of the notes varied from bank to bank. It was impossible to know the current value of the notes of all banks. In Iowa, the Constitution of 1846 prohibited banks of issue. They had no official currency. At one time, over 300 kinds of money circulated in Iowa.

When the new Constitution of 1857 was adopted, a new bank with many branches was begun. This was called the State Bank because the state made the rules. The State Bank gave lowans money they could trust.

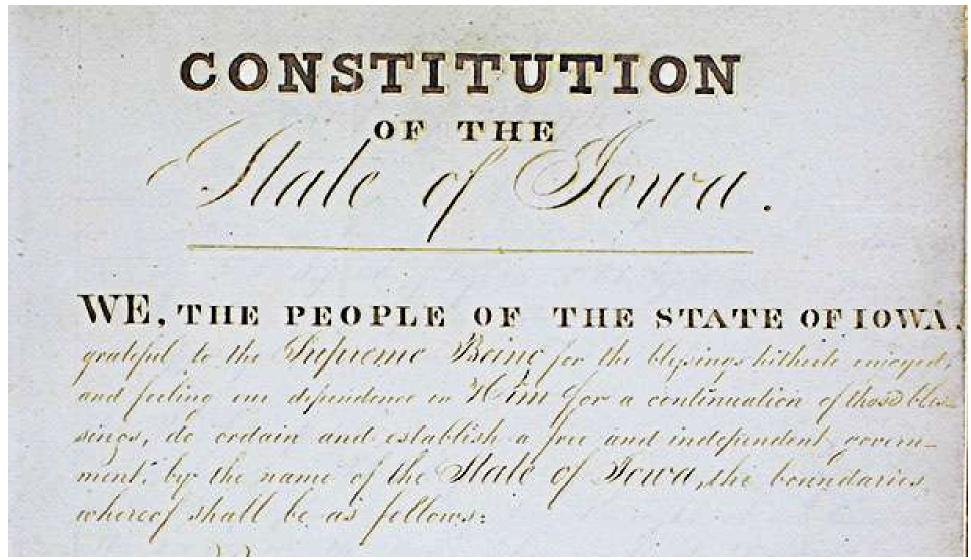
Name .		

Iowa's Constitution

lowa's Constitution: Why did states create their own constitutions?		
When did lowa become a state? Who approved lowa's Constitution?		
Why did lowa and other states create their own constitution?		
What was the problem with lowa's first constitution and how was the problem solved?		
Other questions I have after reading this passage		

E, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The preamble is the opening statement to the U.S. Constitution. The preamble explains the reasons why the framers of the Constitution made the government a republic. The preamble, along with the rest of the U.S. Constitution, was written over a period of about six weeks, and it helped explain why the document was written. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, September 1787*



The lowa Constitution is the plan for the state government. The plan tells how the government should be organized and who has certain duties. Iowa's first constitution was written when Iowa entered the Union as a state in 1846. It was different from the rules of government that had been followed when Iowa was a territory, and it was different from the constitutions of other states. It was supposed to fit the needs of people in Iowa. Unfortunately, there were problems with the first constitution of 1846. The people decided in 1857 that it would be easier to start over again with a new constitution. A new plan of government was written at a meeting in the Old Stone Capitol in Iowa City. This new constitution is the one Iowans live by today. It has been amended 46 times since 1857. Courtesy of Iowa Secretary of State, "Constitution of the State of Iowa," 1857



TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

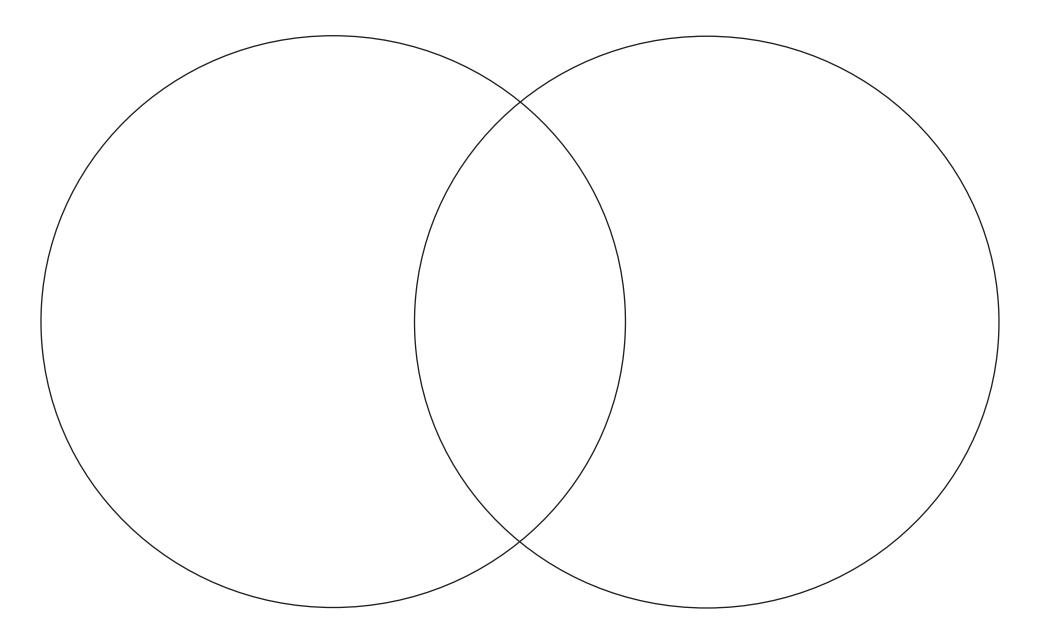
Transcribed Excerpt from the Constitution of the State of Iowa

Preamble

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IOWA, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a free and independent government, by the name of the State of Iowa, the boundaries whereof shall be as follows:

The lowa Constitution is the plan for the state government. The plan tells how the government should be organized and who has certain duties. Iowa's first constitution was written when Iowa entered the Union as a state in 1846. It was different from the rules of government that had been followed when Iowa was a territory, and it was different from the constitutions of other states. It was supposed to fit the needs of people in Iowa. Unfortunately, there were problems with the first constitution of 1846. The people decided in 1857 that it would be easier to start over again with a new constitution. A new plan of government was written at a meeting in the Old Stone Capitol in Iowa City. This new constitution is the one Iowans live by today. It has been amended 46 times since 1857. Courtesy of Iowa Secretary of State, "Constitution of the State of Iowa," 1857

Preamble Venn Diagram



Lesson Summative Assessment

Scenario: The founders of the United States are considered geniuses for the government they created, especially considering how long it has lasted. Which key documents establish the foundation of America's participatory democracy? Provide evidence and reasoning for your essay.

Introduction

- Start with a hook sentence.
- Write the context in a sentence or two. (Refer to pre-lesson activity 1)
- Write the big question in your own words in a statement.
- Write your thesis (answer) in one sentence.

Category 1

- Start with topic sentence (introduces category)
- Supporting Evidence
- Reasoning (how evidence connects to thesis)

Category 2	
 Start with topic sentence (introduces category) Supporting Evidence Reasoning (how evidence connects to thesis) 	
Category 3 (if needed)	
 Start with topic sentence (introduces category) Supporting Evidence Reasoning (how evidence connects to thesis) 	
Conclusion	
 Restate thesis in a new way Give a clincher - a final, convincing thought to leave with the reader 	

Government, Democracy and Laws

Amendment

An amendment is a change or addition to a law is called an amendment. The word usually refers to a change to the constitution of a government.

Articles

Seven articles, known as the Articles of Confederation, served as the written document that established the functions of the national government of the United States after it declared independence from Great Britain.

Bills of Rights

The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. This was ratified in 1791 and guaranteed such rights as the freedoms of speech, assembly and the press.

Constitution

A constitution is a set of rules that guide how a country, state or other political organization works. The constitution may be amended or changed. The U.S. Constitution governs the entire country.

Democracy

The word democracy itself means rule by the people. Democracy is a form of government in which the people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation, or to choose governing officials to do so.

Federal Government

A federal government is a system of dividing up power between a central national government and local state governments that are connected to one another by the national government. In the U.S., the federal government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive and judicial.

Founding

The act of founding is the establishing or originating an institution or organization.

Participatory Democracy

A participatory democracy emphasizes the broad participation of constituents in the direction and operation of political systems (people are in power and thus that all democracies are participatory).

Rights

Rights are legal, social or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement; that is, rights are the fundamental rules about what is allowed of people or owed to people according to some legal system, social convention or ethical theory.