Unit II: The United States Constitution

The 7 Principles of the U.S. Constitution

What is a constitution?

> As defined by Webster's Dictionary:

The basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.

ODefine "constitution" in your own words

United States Constitution - FAQS:

- When was the Constitution created?
 - A: September 17, 1787 at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- When was it ratified?
 - A: June 21, 1788 (NC and RI join in 1790)
- What are the differences between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?

Declaration of Independence

U.S.

Constitution

- Lists grievances against King George
- Explains idea of sovereignty
- Sets foundation of actual government processes (laws, responsibilities, principles)

Principle 1

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Outlined in the Declaration of Independence

Popular Sovereignty



Authority of the government is created and sustained by the consent of the people



Principle II

Locke's "inalienable rights" are a key component

republicanism



Greco-Roman roots; core of Declaration of Independence





Principle III

Limits powers of state governments

Limited Government



Constitution limits powers of federal government



Principle IV



Judicial:
Interprets
laws
Legislative:

Creates laws



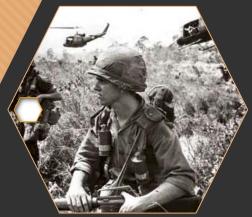
Principle V



Checks and Balances



Branches may "check" on other branches decisions





Principle VI

Elastic Clause: Implied Powers - Necessary and proper

Flexibility (ability to adapt)

Judicial Review: Supreme Court may review controversial issues



14th Amendment

... the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, . . .

Amendment rocess: Article V-2/3 then 3/4 (state or congress)

Principle VII

