

Name _____

Period: _____

Date _____

Chapter: **US Constitution**

Social Studies Vocabulary

Word/Term

Definition

Magna Carta	First document that limited the power of a king and gave people certain rights. Signed by King John of England in the year 1215.
English Bill of Rights	Signed by William and Mary in 1689, this document further limited the power of the king and gave English citizens more rights.
Alexander Hamilton	Strong supporter of the US Constitution, wanted a stronger central government and weaker states, started the Federalists, supported free-enterprise, wanted a manufacturing economy, supported a tariff on imports.
James Madison	Constitutional delegate from Virginia, called the “Father of the Constitution, kept detailed account of events at the Constitutional Convention, became our 4 th President.
1787	Year the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia and wrote the U.S. Constitution.
Philadelphia Convention	The convention where delegates from the 13 states met to revise the Articles of Confederation but instead Created the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Constitution	Basic law and government of the United States, based on seven principles – republicanism, popular sovereignty, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and limited government.
Federalists	Supporters of immediate ratification of the Constitution, wanted a stronger federal government and weaker states, wanted an economy based on manufacturing, led by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.
Anti-federalists	Opposed ratification of the Constitution, wanted a Bill of Rights added, wanted an economy based on agriculture, led by Patrick Henry and George Mason.
Federalist Papers	Published essays written by Hamilton, Madison and John Jay, explained the reasons why the states should ratify the new Constitution as is and quickly.
Bill of Rights	The first 10 Amendments added to the Constitution in 1791. It granted Americans many of our basic rights and freedoms and limited the power the government.
The Great Compromise	Agreement that created a bicameral U.S. Congress: the Senate – each state gets two, and the House of representatives – the number of reps is based on the state’s population.
The Three-fifths Compromise	Agreement that settled the issue of counting slaves as people. Each slave would count as 3/5 of a person, or for every 5 slaves, 3 would be counted for population.
1. Legislative Branch:	branch of government responsible for making our laws, in the U.S., this is the Congress
2. Executive Branch:	branch of government responsible for enforcing our laws, headed by the President of the United States
3. Judicial Branch:	branch of government that interprets the laws of our country, headed by the U.S. Supreme Court