

Directions

- Title entry 14: Unit 2 Lesson 2 Influential Documents



Lesson 2: Influential Documents

Essential Question: What were some of the key influences on the colonists' views of government?

Rule of Law

- **Scenario**

- The president is caught committing a crime. He is not simply forgiven because of his position of authority. The president is charged with the crime and must go to court where a jury will determine if he is guilty or innocent. If he is found guilty, he faces the same punishments as everyday American citizens.

- **Class Definition:**

- All people must follow the laws, and the laws should be enforced fairly.

What is the "Rule of Law"?

- No-one is above the law
- Government is obliged to obey the law

Self Government (Direct Democracy)

- Scenario
 - A group of people start a new country called Cushland. They decide they do not want a king or a dictator to be their leader. Instead, each citizen of Cushland has a say in their country's decisions. The citizens create their own laws, they vote to make decisions regarding issues in Cushland. Each citizen has a voice and each person's opinion matters.
- Class Definition
 - People can make decisions on how their government should work.



Due Process



- Scenario
 - The United States does not make laws that are unfair. For example, there is no law that says people born in July can't ride the city bus. That law would discriminate against many people. Additionally, when a citizen is charged with a crime, they have rights. They are to be told what they are being charged with, they have the right to a lawyer, they have the right to a fair trial by a jury of their peers.
- Class Definition
 - People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. All people should be treated equally under the law

Limited Government



- Scenario
 - In the United States, the president does not have unlimited power. While he is given certain powers by the Constitution, the Constitution also limits him from taking certain actions. He is also not the only leader in our nation. Aside from the executive branch, we also have the legislative and judicial branches. Each branch has certain responsibilities, but ultimately must follow the rules of the Constitution.
- Class Definition
 - A government that has been limited in power by a constitution

Rights



- Scenario
 - As citizens, we believe there are certain things we should be able to do freely without the fear of punishment from law enforcement or the government. For example, in the United States, we value freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government.
- Class Definition
 - A set of things that people believe they should be free to do

Magna Carta

The Magna Carta was a government document that limited the power of the king of England and protected the rights of the nobility. It was written by the English nobility in 1215.



Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Rule of Law
- Due Process

Mayflower Compact

The Mayflower Compact was an agreement that created a government that would provide order and protect the rights of the colonists. It was written by a group of English Pilgrims as they traveled to Massachusetts in 1620.

Big Ideas:

- Self Government
- Rule of Law



English Bill of Rights

The English Bill of Rights was a government document that expanded the powers of the English Parliament and expanded the rights of the people, as well as further limited the rights of the king. It was written by the members of the English Parliament in 1689.

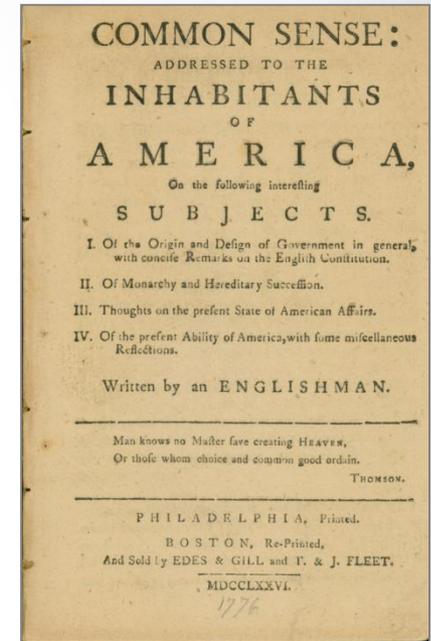
Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Due Process
- Rule of Law



Common Sense

Common Sense was a pamphlet written to convince the American colonists to support becoming independent from England. It was written by a Thomas Payne and circulated in 1776.



Big Ideas:

- Self Government
- Rights

From Big Ideas to the Constitution

The movers and shakers in the colonial period spent a lot of time thinking about these big ideas, and how to put them into practice.

Give it a try yourself by matching each aspect of the U.S. Constitution to the big ideas that you just learned about.



From Big Ideas to the Constitution

A

"This Constitution and the laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme law of the land." All government officials "shall be bound by an oath to support this constitution."

U.S. Constitution, Article VI

Self– Government:

popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

Rule of Law: the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

A

Due Process: People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and treat all people in the same way.

Rights: A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

Limited Government: the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

From Big Ideas to the Constitution

B

The first ten amendments in the Bill of Rights guarantee certain rights and freedoms that include:

- Freedom of speech, the press, and religion
- Right to petition the government and to bear arms
- Prohibition of excessive bail or fines, or cruel and unusual punishments for crimes

Self– Government:

popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

Rule of Law: the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

Due Process: People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and treat all people in the same way.

Rights: A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

B

Limited Government: the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

From Big Ideas to the Constitution

C

The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government. Each branch is given the power to check, or limit the power of the other two. The system of checks and balances keeps any one branch from getting too powerful.

Self– Government:

popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

Rule of Law: the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

Due Process: People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and treat all people in the same way.

Rights: A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

Limited Government: the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

C

From Big Ideas to the Constitution

D

No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"

U.S. Constitution, 5th Amendment

Self- Government:

popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

Rule of Law: the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

Due Process: People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and treat all people in the same way.

Rights: A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

D

Limited Government: the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

From Big Ideas to the Constitution

E

"WE THE PEOPLE of the United States...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Self– Government:

popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

E

Rule of Law: the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

Due Process: People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and treat all people in the same way.

Rights: A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

Limited Government: the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do