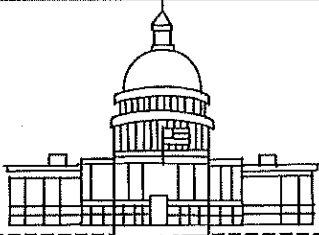


Name 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Test Date January 23<sup>rd</sup>

# Government Study Guide



## Key Words:

ratify: approve

veto: refuse to sign into law

amendment: addition or change

checks and balances: guards one branch from becoming too powerful

republic: a form of government in which people elect representatives to run the country

### Articles of Confederation

- ~ first written constitution
- ~ Only 1 branch- legislative. It could make the laws but not pass them.
- ~ It couldn't collect enough money from states to pay for the war.
- ~ It couldn't put tariffs on imports of British goods without state approval.

## 3 Branches of Government

### Legislative Branch

Congress

- \*Makes laws
- \*Establishes taxes

Congress is divided into 2 parts:

Senate  
representatives  
per state- 2

House of Representatives  
representatives  
per state- depends  
on the population

### Making Our Government

The Articles of Confederation was making the U.S. government weak.

Shays' Rebellion was a series of protests from farmers against tax and debt collections.

The Constitution Convention formed to amend the Articles of Confederation.

The Virginia Plan was presented. It suggested 3 branches and state representation formed by population.

Smaller states opposed, but the majority vote ruled in favor of the plan and the Articles of Confederation was replaced.

Great Compromise: The smaller states argued, which led to a compromise. The Senate is represented by 2 members per state, not based on population.

Three-Fifths Compromise: 3/5 of the slaves were counted for the purpose of representation and taxes.

### Opinions Divided

Federalists wanted a strong national government and supported the Constitution.

Anti-Federalists opposed the Constitution because it gave too much power to the national government.

### Executive Branch

President  
(Commander-in-Chief)

- \*Makes sure laws are carried out
- \*Commands the armed forces

President must have been born in the United States and lived in the country for the last 14 years.



### Judicial Branch

Supreme Court and other federal courts

- \*Decides what laws mean
- \*Interprets if laws are fair

The Supreme Court has 9 justices (judges) and is the highest court in the land.

### Bill of Rights

10 amendments to the Constitution

- 1<sup>st</sup>- People have freedom of religion, speech, and press
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Right to bear arms
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Can not be forced to house soldiers
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Protects people from law enforcement entering their home
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Can not be forced to testify against yourself in court

### Government Documents

	Declaration of Independence	Constitution (highest law)	Bill of Rights
Who?	Thomas Jefferson	James Madison & The Continental Convention	James Madison
When?	1776	1787	1789
What?	"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...."	"We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union..."	"Freedom of speech"