

**UNIT 3: THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto 20px auto;"> <p><b>Focus</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <p>Understand the purpose, structure, and application of the United States Constitution in order to appreciate this document as the United States' founding document and "perpetual guide"</p> </div>	<p><u>INTEGRATED COURSE STANDARDS:</u></p>	<p><u>RESOURCE OPTIONS:</u></p>
<p><u>VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS</u></p> <p>Constitution          Bicameral          confederation          article          ratify          Constitutional Convention          Great Compromise          Three-Fifths Compromise          Electoral College          Federalists          Federalism          Anti-federalists          Preamble          Legislative branch          Executive branch          Judicial branch          amendment          rule of law          popular sovereignty          separation of powers          checks and balances          expressed powers          reserved powers          concurrent powers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UNIT OBJECTIVES/MAJOR TOPICS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the significance of the Articles of Confederation and how it led to the writing of the US Constitution.</li> <li>2. Interpret the Preamble to the US Constitution and appraise its importance.</li> <li>3. Identify the significant events and people that contributed to the development of the US Constitution</li> <li>4. Identify the values and principles manifested in the US Constitution (separation of powers, checks and balances, rule of law, individual rights, limited government, the common good, and Article 4 section 4)</li> <li>5. Analyze how the powers and responsibilities of government are distributed, shared, and limited by the US Constitution</li> <li>6. Evaluate the Constitution as a "living document" and understand how it changes in a variety of ways (legislative and presidential actions, interpretation, necessary &amp; proper clause, Amending process)</li> <li>7. Identify the reasons for the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the US Constitution.</li> </ol>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics &amp; You</i> textbook             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chapter 3, the US Constitution (p. 769), and supplements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>American Journey</i> textbook and teacher supplements</li> <li>• <i>We the People</i> Lessons 10-19</li> <li>• "The Living Constitution" – Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10</li> <li>• National Constitution Center</li> <li>• <i>History Alive</i> (Lessons 8 &amp; 9)</li> <li>• <i>Government Alive</i> (Chapter 4)</li> <li>• <i>Foldables (Civics Today)</i></li> <li>• <i>We the People</i> (children's book)</li> <li>• Florida Supreme Court (Constitution Day)</li> <li>• <i>Jr. Scholastics</i></li> <li>• Websites: Ben Guide, Florida Supreme Court, Constitution Center, History Alive</li> <li>• State Statues             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1003.42 (b) – US Constitution</li> <li>○ 1003.42 (c) – <i>Federalist Papers</i> and Republic</li> <li>○ 1003.42(e) – Elements of civil government</li> <li>○ 1003.42 (h) – History of African Americans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ongoing Integration of Units 10 &amp;11</li> </ul>		

**IMPLEMENTATION METHODS & APPLIED ACTIVITIES:**

- **Suggested Activities**
  - Preamble activities: "Ben Franklin's Preamble Scramble" on Ben's Guide
  - Analyze simplified versions of the Constitution.
  - Analyze documents such as the *Federalists Papers* (#10 – page 769), Constitution, letters, correspondence (see the Avalon Project website)
  - Complete Class Constitution Activity
  - Re-write segments of the US Constitution in common vernacular.
  - Graphic Organizers
  - PowerPoint Presentations
  - Constitution Scavenger Hunt
  - Constitution Jeopardy
  - Follow an amendment through the amending process
  
- **Simulations**
  - Act out "Our Founding Fathers" Play
  - Compromise discussion/lesson/activity
  - Power-Sharing Simulation
  - Make a classroom Constitution – see page 73 – & convince others to ratify it
  - Participate in a Federalist v Anti-Federalist debate
  
- **Guest Speakers**
  - Constitutional lawyer
  - Judge
  - Elected officials
  
- **Discussion Topics**
  - Discuss specific compromises that were made at the Constitutional Convention (3/5<sup>ths</sup> Compromise, Slave Trade Compromise, Electoral College, Connecticut Compromise) and evaluate their future impacts
  - Discuss inherent contradictions in "founding documents" – rights of minorities and of women
  
- **Videos**
  - Charlie Brown's "Birth of the US Constitution"
  - *School House Rock* – sing, interpret, analyze & memorize the Preamble
  - *Liberty's Kids* "We the People" and questions