



About The Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource)

The Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource) is a 501(c)(3) organization devoted to facilitating greater access to and understanding of United States Constitutional history. Over the last 10 years, ConSource has connected thousands of American citizens of all ages to our nation's constitutional history by creating a comprehensive, freely accessible digital library of historical sources related to the creation, ratification, and amendment of the United States Constitution. Our team not only curates important digital collections of historical materials, but also travels the country, working with judges, lawyers, law students, educators and the general public to ensure that the full story of our constitutional form of government is told. ConSource is also a member of a number of national campaigns devoted to addressing our nation's civic literacy crisis. To explore our FREE digital library of historical materials, as well as our FREE curricular materials, please visit www.consource.org.

Correlated Primary Source Documents for We the People Middle School Textbook

Unit 1: What Were the Founders' Basic Ideas about Government?

- **Lesson 1: What were the British colonies in American like in the 1770s?**
 - [Mayflower Compact](#)
 - [The First Charter of Virginia \(1606\)](#)
 - [Charter of Massachusetts Bay \(1629\)](#)
 - [The Charter of Maryland \(1632\)](#)
 - [Charter of Connecticut \(1662\)](#)
 - [Charter of Carolina \(1663\)](#)
 - [Charter of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations \(1663\)](#)
 - [The Charter of Fundamental Laws, of West New Jersey, Agreed Upon \(1676\)](#)
 - [Charter for the Province of Pennsylvania \(1681\)](#)
 - [Charter of Delaware \(1701\)](#)
 - [Charter of Georgia \(1732\)](#)
- **Lesson Two: Why Do We Need Government?**
 - [Magna Carta](#)
 - [English Bill of Rights \(1689\)](#)
 - [Mayflower Compact](#)
- **Lesson 3: What is Republican Government**
 - [Declaration of Independence](#)
- **Lesson 4: What is Constitutional Government?**
 - [United States Constitution](#)
 - [Constitution of New Hampshire \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of South Carolina \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Virginia \(1776\)](#)
 - [Virginia Declaration of Rights \(1776\)](#)

- [Constitution of New Jersey \(1776\)](#)
- [Constitution of Delaware \(1776\)](#)
- [Constitution of Pennsylvania \(1776\)](#)
- [Constitution of Maryland \(1776\)](#)
- [Constitution of North Carolina \(1776\)](#)
- [Constitution of Georgia \(1777\)](#)
- [Constitution of New York \(1777\)](#)
- [Constitution of Vermont \(1777\)](#)
- [Constitution of Massachusetts \(1780\)](#)
- **Lesson 5: How Can We Organize Government to Prevent the Abuse of Power?**
 - Separation of Powers
 - [Federalist 10](#)
 - [Federalist 37](#)
 - [Federalist 47](#)
 - [Federalist 48](#)
 - [Federalist 51](#)
 - [Federalist 71](#)
 - [Centinel II \(October 24, 1787\)](#)
 - Checks and Balances
 - [Federalist 10](#)
 - [Patrick Henry, Virginia Ratifying Convention \(June 9, 1788\)](#)
 - [James Monroe and John Marshall, Virginia Ratifying Convention \(June 10, 1788\)](#)

Unit Two: What Shaped the Founders' Thinking About Government?

- **Lesson 6: How did constitutional government develop in Great Britain?**
 - [Magna Carta](#)
 - [English Bill of Rights \(1689\)](#)
- **Lesson 8: What Basic Ideas about Government Are in the Declaration of Independence?**
 - [Declaration of Independence](#)
- **Lesson 10: How Did the States Govern Themselves after the Revolution?**
 - [Constitution of New Hampshire \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of South Carolina \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Virginia \(1776\)](#)
 - [Virginia Declaration of Rights \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of New Jersey \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Delaware \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Pennsylvania \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Maryland \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of North Carolina \(1776\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Georgia \(1777\)](#)
 - [Constitution of New York \(1777\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Vermont \(1777\)](#)
 - [Constitution of Massachusetts \(1780\)](#)

- **Lesson 11: How did the Articles of Confederation Organize the First National Government?**
 - [Article of Confederation \(1777\)](#)

Unit Three: What Happened at the Philadelphia Convention?

- **Lesson 12: Who Attended the Philadelphia Convention? How was it organized?**
 - [Resolution of Congress Calling for Convention to Revise the Articles of Confederation \(1787\)](#)
 - [Reason: A Thought for the Delegates to the Convention, to be held at Philadelphia \(1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison: Preface to Debates in the Convention of 1787](#)
 - [Convention Delegates](#)
 - [Convention Attendance](#)
 - [Convention Delegates' Credentials](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(May 25, 1787\)](#) – the day there was a quorum to conduct business.
 - Rules for the Convention were adopted on May 28 and 29, 1787.
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(May 28, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(May 29, 1787\)](#)
- **Lesson 13: How did the Framers Resolve the Conflict About Representation in Congress?**
 - [The Virginia Plan](#)
 - [The New Jersey Plan](#)
 - [The Hamilton Plan](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 2, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 12, 1787\)](#) – Discussion of three-fifths clause
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 6, 1787\)](#) - Committee of Five Formed to Settle Issue of Representation
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 9, 1787\)](#) – Report of the Committee of Five
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 16, 1787\)](#) – Discussion of Great Compromise
 - [Deep Dive on Three-fifths Clause \(collection of several historical documents\)](#)
 - [Deep Dive on House of Representatives/Member Composition Clause \(collection of several historical documents\)](#)
 - [Deep Dive on Senate Composition Clause \(collection of several historical documents\)](#)
- **Lesson 14: How Did the Framers Resolve the Conflict between the Northern and Southern States?**
 - Debates over the Slave Trade
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 6, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 8, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 21, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 22, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 24, 1787\)](#)

- [James Madison's Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(August 25, 1787\)](#)
 - Tax and Spend Clause
 - [Tax and Spend Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - International Commerce Clause
 - [International Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
- **Lesson 15: How Did The Framers Resolve Conflicts About the Legislative Branch?**
 - Article I, Section 8 – Powers of Congress
 - [Tax and Spend Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [General Welfare Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Uniformity of Taxation Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Borrow Money Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [International Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Interstate Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Indian Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Naturalization Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Bankruptcy Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Coinage Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Weights and Measure Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Counterfeiting Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Post Office Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Patent and Copyright Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Tribunals Inferior to the Supreme Court Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Law of Nations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Declare War Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Marque and Reprisal Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Captures Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Raise and Support Armies Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Armies Appropriation Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Navy Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Rules for the Military Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Militia Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Militia Organization Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [District Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Military Installations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Necessary and Proper Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [All Other Powers Vested Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Felonies on the High Seas Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - Article I, Section 9 – Limitations on the Powers of the National Government
 - [Slave Trade Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Habeas Corpus Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Federal Bill of Attainder Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Federal Ex Post Facto Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Direct Taxes Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Exportation Tax Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Port Preference Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)

- [Appropriations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Expenditure Accountability Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Title of Nobility Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Emoluments Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
- **Lesson 16: How Much Power Should be Given to the Executive and Judicial Branches?**
 - Article II: The Executive Branch
 - [Executive Power Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Commander in Chief Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Commander of Militia Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Opinion in Writing Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Reprieves and Pardons Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Advice and Consent Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Treaty Making Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Appointments Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Appointments of Inferior Officers Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Recess Appointments Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State of the Union Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Presidential Recommendations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Convening of Congress Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Receive Ambassadors and Public Ministers Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Take Care Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Electoral College Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - Article III: The Judicial Branch
 - [Judicial Power Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Good Behavior Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Law and Equity Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Arising Under Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Authorized Treaties Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Affecting Ambassadors and Public Ministers Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Federal Party Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Interstate Controversies Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Citizen-State Diversity Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Diversity Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Land Grant Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Original Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Appellate Jurisdiction Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Exceptions and Regulations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)

Unit 4: How Was the Constitution Used To Establish Our Government?

- **How did the Constitution create a Federal System of Government?**
 - [The Virginia Plan](#)
 - [The New Jersey Plan](#)

- [The Hamilton Plan](#)
- [Federalist 15](#)
- [Federalist 16](#)
- [Federalist 17](#)
- [Federalist 27](#)
- [Federalist 39](#)
- [Federalist 45](#)
- [Federalist 46](#)
- Article I, Section 8 – Powers of Congress
 - [Tax and Spend Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [General Welfare Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Uniformity of Taxation Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Borrow Money Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [International Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Interstate Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Indian Commerce Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Naturalization Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Bankruptcy Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Coinage Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Weights and Measure Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Counterfeiting Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Post Office Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Patent and Copyright Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Tribunals Inferior to the Supreme Court Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Law of Nations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Declare War Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Marque and Reprisal Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Captures Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Raise and Support Armies Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Armies Appropriation Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Navy Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Rules for the Military Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Militia Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Militia Organization Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [District Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Military Installations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Necessary and Proper Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [All Other Powers Vested Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Felonies on the High Seas Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
- Article I, Section 9 – Limitations on the Powers of the National Government
 - [Slave Trade Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Habeas Corpus Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Federal Bill of Attainder Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Federal Ex Post Facto Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Direct Taxes Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)

- [Exportation Tax Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Port Preference Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Appropriations Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Expenditure Accountability Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Title of Nobility Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Emoluments Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - Article I, Section 10 – Limitations on the Powers of the States
 - [State Marque and Reprisal Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State Treaties Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State Coinage Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State Bill of Attainder Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State Ex Post Facto Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Obligations of Contracts Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [State Title of Nobility Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Import-Export Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Congressional Control Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Compact Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Imminent Danger Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Tonnage Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
- **Lesson 18: How did the People Approve the New Constitution?**
 - [Ratification Clause \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - Debates on the Necessity of Popular Ratification
 - [James Madison’s Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(June 5, 1787\)](#)
 - [James Madison’s Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(July 23, 1787\)](#)
 - Federalists
 - [The Federalist Papers 1 - 85](#)
 - Anti-Federalists
 - Objections Raised During the Constitutional Convention
 - [James Madison’s Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(June 20, 1787\) – concerns raised by Luther Martin, John Lansing, and George Mason](#)
 - [James Madison’s Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(June 27, 1787\) - Luther Martin's objections](#)
 - [James Madison’s Notes of the Constitutional Convention \(June 28, 1787\) Luther Martin’s Objections cont’d](#)
 - Origin of Anti-Federalist Thought
 - [Edmund Randolph to the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates \(October 10, 1787\)](#)
 - [Elbridge Gerry to President of Senate and Speaker of House of Representatives of Massachusetts \(October 18, 1787\)](#)
 - [George Mason to Thomas Jefferson \(May 26, 1788\)](#)
 - [George Mason to John Lamb \(June 6, 1788\)](#)
 - [Cato III \(October 25, 1787\)](#)
 - [An Old Whig VII \(November 28, 1787\)](#)

- [The Dissent of the Minority of the Pennsylvania Convention, Pennsylvania Packet \(December 18, 1787\)](#)
 - [Robert Yates and John Lansing, Jr. to the Government of New York \(December 21, 1787\)](#)
- Anti-Federalist Views of Federalism
 - [Federal Farmer I \(October 8, 1787\)](#)
 - [Brutus I \(October 18, 1787\)](#)
 - [Brutus V \(December 13, 1787\)](#)
 - [Patrick Henry, Virginia Ratifying Convention \(June 4, 1788\) \(Speech Part 1\)](#) AND [Patrick Henry, Virginia Ratifying Convention \(June 5, 1788\) \(Speech Part 2\)](#)
 - [Virginia Ratifying Convention Amendment Proposals \(June 27, 1788\)](#)
- Anti-Federalist Views of Republicanism
 - [Federal Farmer II \(October 9, 1787\)](#)
 - [Federal Farmer III \(October 10, 1787\)](#)
 - [Federal Farmer IV \(October 12, 1787\)](#)
 - [An Old Whig IV \(October 27, 1787\)](#)
 - [Brutus II \(November 1, 1787\)](#)
 - [Brutus IV \(November 29, 1787\)](#)
 - [Brutus XI \(January 31, 1788\)](#)
 - [Brutus XII \(February 7, 1788\)](#)
 - [Brutus XV \(March 20, 1788\)](#)
 - [Cato V \(November 22, 1787\)](#)
 - [Cato VII \(January 3, 1788\)](#)
 - [Notes from the Virginia Ratifying Convention \(June 18, 1788\)](#)
 - [Notes from New York Ratifying Convention \(June 20, 1788\)](#)
 - [Notes from New York Ratifying Convention \(June 24, 1788\)](#)
- Anti-Federalist Views of Capitalism and Democracy
 - [Centinel III \(November 8, 1787\)](#)
 - [Centinel IV \(November 30, 1787\)](#)
 - [Centinel VII \(December 27, 1787\)](#)
 - [Centinel VIII \(December 29, 1787\)](#)
 - [Cato VI \(December 16, 1787\)](#)
- State Ratifying Conventions
 - [Connecticut Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [New York Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Delaware Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Virginia Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Rhode Island Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Georgia Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Pennsylvania Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [North Carolina Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [New Jersey Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)
 - [Massachusetts Ratification Debates \(collection of historical documents\)](#)

Unit 5: What Are Our Basic Rights?

- **Lesson 23: How Does the Constitution Protect Freedom of Expression?**
 - [Freedom of Speech Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Freedom of the Press Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
- **Lesson 24: How Does the Constitution Protect Freedom of Religion?**
 - [Establishment Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Free Exercise Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
- **Lesson 27: How Does the Constitution Right to Due Process of Law?**
 - Fifth Amendment
 - [Double Jeopardy Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Self-Incrimination Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Federal Due Process Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - Sixth Amendment
 - [Speedy Trial Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Public Trial Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Impartial Jury Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Arraignment Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Confrontation of Witness Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Compulsory Process Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Assistance of Counsel Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Trial in the State or District Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - Eighth Amendment
 - [No Excessive Bail Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)
 - [Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause Document Collection \(history of the clause\)](#)