



We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

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UNIT I

WHAT WERE THE FOUNDERS' BASIC IDEAS ABOUT GOVERNMENT?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

1. John Locke was an English philosopher who thought about why it was necessary to have a government.
 - What did Locke think would happen without government?
 - What did Locke believe to be the purpose of government?
 - Do you think government might have purposes that Locke did not mention? Explain your answer.
2. The Founders were concerned with how to preserve a republican form of government.
 - According to the Founders, what was republican government?
 - What weaknesses did the Founders think would lead to the failure of republican government?
 - How did the Founders think these weaknesses could be prevented? Do you think the Founders' solutions were correct? Why or why not?