

INDIANA BAR

FOUNDATION

We the People

2020 Middle School Regional Questions

Unit 1: What Were The Founders Basic Ideas About Government?

(Question 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?

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Unit 2: What Shaped The Founders Thinking About Government?

(Question 1) The Declaration of Independence told the world why the Americans wanted to free themselves from British rule. The Declaration stated the Founders' beliefs about government.

- Using the Declaration as your source, in your own words describe the principles of good government.
- Where did the Founders get these ideas?
- Do you think these principles are valid today? Why or why not?

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Unit 3: What Happened at the Philadelphia Convention?

(Question 3) The Framers put forth various plans to solve the problem of representation in Congress.

- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the Virginia Plan?
- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the New Jersey Plan?
- Do you think the Great Compromise was a good solution to the problem of representation? Why or why not?

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

(Question 3) Political parties are an important part of our political system today, yet they are not mentioned in the Constitution.

- Why did the Framers fear political parties?
- Why and how did political parties develop?
- Do political parties play a useful role today? Why or why not?

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Unit 5: How Does The Constitution Protect Our Basic Rights?

(Question 3) The First Amendment states that laws shall not be passed that abridge freedom of speech.

- Why did the Founders think freedom of speech was so important?
- Do you believe there are times when freedom of expression should be limited? Explain your response.
- Should a public speaker who calls for violent action be protected by the First Amendment whereas an audience member who performs the action can be sent to prison? Why or why not?

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Unit 6: What Are The Responsibilities Of Citizens?

(Question 1) Many people believe that an informed citizenry is essential if democracy is to work.

- Should people be required to pass periodic citizenship tests to maintain their citizenship? Why or why not?
- Would you favor requiring literacy tests, fairly administered, before allowing citizens to vote? Why or why not?