



We the People Level II (Middle School)



List of Units and Lessons

Unit 1: What is Government?

- Lesson 1 Why do we need a government?
- Lesson 2 What is republican government?
- Lesson 3 What is a constitutional government?
- Lesson 4 How can governments be organized to prevent the abuse of power

Unit 2: What Experiences Shaped the Founders' Thinking about Government?

- Lesson 5 How were the Americans influenced by their English background?
- Lesson 6 What experiences led to the American Revolution?
- Lesson 7 What basic ideas about government were in the Declaration of Independence?
- Lesson 8 How did the states govern themselves after the Revolution?
- Lesson 9 What were Americans like in the 1780's?
- Lesson 10 Why did the Founders think a new constitution was needed?

Unit 3: What Happened at the Philadelphia Convention?

- Lesson 11 Who attended the Philadelphia Convention and how was it organized?
- Lesson 12 What was the conflict over representation?
- Lesson 13 What were the conflicts between the northern and southern states?
- Lesson 14 What was the conflict over the legislative power of the national government?
- Lesson 15 How much power should be given to the executive and judicial branches?
- Lesson 16 What opinions did the Framers have of the Constitution?
- Lesson 17 Who were the supporters and critics of the Constitution?

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

- Lesson 18 What was the federal system created by the Constitution?
- Lesson 19 How was the new government established?
- Lesson 20 How did political parties develop?
- Lesson 21 Who decides what the Constitution means?
- Lesson 22 How does the Supreme Court interpret the Constitution?

Unit 5: How does the Constitution Protect Our Basic Rights?

- Lesson 23 How does the Constitution protect freedom of expression?
- Lesson 24 How does the Constitution protect freedom of religion?
- Lesson 25 How has the right to vote expanded since the Constitution was adopted?
- Lesson 26 What is the right to equal protection of the laws?
- Lesson 27 What is the right to due process and how is it protected?

Unit 6: What are the Responsibilities of Citizens?

- Lesson 28 How can citizens participate?
- Lesson 29 What decisions will you make as a citizen?

Note: This is the table of contents from the middle school level textbook, *We the People*, Level II (Calabasas, CA: Center for Civic Education, 2003). For information on the New York State *We the People* Program, please contact: Law, Youth & Citizenship Program, New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany, NY, 12207; 518-473-4235 ph; 518-486-1571 fax; lyc@nysba.org.

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*Correlated to the NYS Scope and Sequence and Standards for Social Studies
Grade 7-8 Scope and Sequence: "United States and New York State History"*

Scope and Sequence: Content Outline*	Standards* *	We the People Level II Text
<i>UNIT THREE: A NATION IS CREATED</i>		
<i>I. Background Causes of the American Revolution</i>		
B. Political Factors	1,5	Lesson 1-4
C. New Social Relationships between European Powers and the American Colonies: Development of a New Colonial Identity	1,5	Lesson 5
<i>II. The Shift from Protest to Separation</i>		
A. New British Attitude toward Colonies Following Victory over France	1, 5	Lesson 6 Lesson 23
B. New British Policies Antagonized Many Americans		Lessons 1-6
C. Public Opinion Was Shaped in Different Forums	1	Lessons 6-7
D. Wide Variety of Viewpoints Evolved	1	Lessons 6-8
<i>II. Early attempts to Govern the Newly Independent States</i>		
A. The Revolution Begins	1, 5	Lessons 6-7
B. The Second Continental Congress Represented the First Attempt to Govern the Colonies	1, 5	Lessons 1-2 Lessons 8-10
C. A Movement for Independence Evolved from the Political Debate of the Day	1, 5	Lessons 6-7
C. Declaration of Independence	1, 5	Lessons 6-7
E. Independence Creates problems for New Yorkers	1, 5	Lesson 8

<u>V. Economic Political, and Social Changes Brought about by the American Revolution</u>		
A. On the National Level	1, 5	Lessons 7-9
<u>UNIT FOUR: EXPERIMENTS IN GOVERNMENT</u>		
<u>I. Articles of Confederation and the Critical Period</u>		
A. Need for a Formal Plan of Union	1, 5	Lessons 8-10
B. Development of a Formal Plan of Government	1, 5	Lesson 10
C. The Structure of Government under the Articles of Confederation	1, 5	Lesson 10
D. The Articles Suffered from Many Weaknesses	1, 5	Lesson 10
E. The Articles Did Have Several Achievements and Contributions	1, 5	Lesson 10
<u>III. The Writing, Structure, and Adoption of the United States Constitution</u>		
A. Annapolis Convention, 1786	1, 5	Lessons 10-11
B. Constitutional Convention, 1786	1, 5	Lesson 11
C. Major Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limits of power 2. Representation: Slaves and apportionment 3. Electoral procedures: Direct versus indirect election 4. Rights of individuals 	1, 5	Lessons 12-15 Lessons 12-13 Lesson 15 Lesson 17, 23-27
D. The Need for Compromise	1, 5	Lessons 12-15
E. The Underlying Legal and Political Principles of the Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Federalism 2. Separation of powers 3. Provisions for change 4. Protection of individual rights 	1, 5	Lesson 18 Lessons 14-15 Lesson 19 Lesson 17, 23-27
F. The Constitution and the Functioning of the Federal Government	1, 5	Lessons 14-19

G. The Constitution as Living Document	1, 5	Lesson 14, 19-22
G. The Evolution of an “Unwritten Constitution” 1. Political parties 2. The President’s Cabinet	1, 5	Lesson 20 Lesson 19
H. The Ratification Process	1, 5	Lessons 16-19
UNIT FIVE: LIFE IN THE NEW NATION		
<i>I. New Government in Operation</i>		
A. Washington as President: Precedents	1, 5	Lesson 19
B. Establishing stability 1. Hamilton’s economic plan 2. Preserving neutrality 3. Political parties 4. Judicial review	1, 5	Lesson 20 Lesson 20 Lesson 20 Lessons 21-22
<i>II. The Age of Jackson</i>		
A. The age of the “Common Man” 1. Expansion of suffrage	1, 5	Lesson 25
UNIT SIX: DIVISION AND REUNION		
<i>III. Results of the Civil War</i>		
B. Slavery is abolished	1, 5	Lesson 26
C. Reconstruction—Theory, Practice, and Termination 4. Constitutional Amendments 14-15	1, 5	Lessons 25-26
UNIT SEVEN: AN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY		
<i>III. The Progressive Movement, 1900-1920: Efforts to Reform the New Society</i>		
B. Efforts to Reform Government and Politics	1, 5	Lesson 25
UNIT ELEVEN: THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT		

<i>I. An Age of Prosperity Characterized the Post-War Society</i>		
F. Prosperity Resulted in Rising Expectations for Black Americans and Other Minorities	1, 5	Lesson 26
UNIT TWELVE: CITIZENSHIP IN TODAY'S WORLD		
Citizenship in the United States		
A. Underlying Principles of the Constitution of the United States: How They Operate:	5	Lessons 1-4 Lesson 18
1. Federalism		Lesson 4, 6, 8, 14-15, 17-18, 21-22
2. Separation of Powers		Lessons 1-2, 6, 8, 23-27
3. Protection of individual rights		Lessons 25-27
4. Provisions for change: The Amendment Process		
B. Legal Bases for Citizenship in the United States	5	Lesson 28
C. Responsibilities of Citizenship	5	Lessons 28-29

*Only items from the "Scope and Sequence" (Part 1.2 of Social Studies Resource Guide, New York State Education Department) addressed in the *We the People* text are listed.

**New York State Education Department, Learning Standards for Social Studies, Revised Edition (Albany, June 1996.) The Learning Standards are as follows—Standard 1: History of the United States and New York; Standard 2: World History; Standard 3: Geography; Standard 4: Economics; Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship, and Government.