

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 1: The Declaration of Independence: Giving Birth to a New Country

### Comprehension Questions

1. Three of the sentences below give reasons why the colonists wanted freedom from Britain. Find the sentence that is **not** one of their reasons.
  - a. The British government demanded that the colonists pay more taxes.
  - b. *The colonists wanted to make Benjamin Franklin their king.*
  - c. There were no American colonists in the British Parliament.
  - d. Parliament and the king demanded that the colonists obey British laws.
  
2. Who wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?
  - a. *Thomas Jefferson*
  - b. George Washington
  - c. King George of England
  - d. The British Parliament
  
3. Three of the sentences below are ideas that are in the Declaration of Independence. Which one of these ideas is **not** in the Declaration?
  - a. All men are created equal.
  - b. People have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
  - c. *Women have the same rights as men.*
  - d. The colonies will be free and independent states.

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 1: The Declaration of Independence: Giving Birth to a New Country

### Vocabulary Questions

1. The part of the British government that makes laws is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *Parliament*
  - b. Congress
  - c. the State House
  - d. Philadelphia
  
2. A war where two groups in the same country are fighting against each other is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an accusation
  - b. a bloody claim
  - c. *a civil war*
  - d. a divorce
  
3. People who lived in the colonies were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *colonists*
  - b. rebels
  - c. inventors
  - d. commanders
  
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of people who work together on something.
  - a. constitution
  - b. *committee*
  - c. declaration
  - d. pursuit

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 2: The Constitution: Creating a New Government

### Comprehension Questions

1. What is one reason that the 13 American states needed a new government?
  - a. So that they could have a new king.
  - b. So that each state could print its own money to trade with foreign countries.
  - c. So that the states could give women the right to vote.
  - d. So that all the states would have the same kind of money and could trade with each other more easily.
  
2. All the delegates wanted to create a representative democracy. What happens in a representative democracy?
  - a. Citizens elect representatives to make decisions for them.
  - b. Every citizen in the country votes on every decision.
  - c. Representatives choose ordinary people to vote on important issues.
  - d. A king rules the country together with his Congress.
  
3. Why did the delegates divide the powers of the national government among three branches?
  - a. To help make sure that no branch became too powerful.
  - b. To please King George and the British Parliament.
  - c. To create jobs for anyone who wanted to work in the government.
  - d. To help end slavery in states where slavery was still allowed.

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 2: The Constitution: Creating a New Government

### Vocabulary Questions

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ at a convention is someone who has been chosen to speak and make decisions for a group.
  - a. *delegate*
  - b. senator
  - c. member
  - d. colonist
  
2. The U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ lays out the basic rules for the American government.
  - a. Convention
  - b. *Constitution*
  - c. Declaration
  - d. Draft
  
3. The part of the U.S. government that makes laws is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *Congress*
  - b. Parliament
  - c. the State House
  - d. Independence Hall
  
4. In \_\_\_\_\_, the two sides in an argument each give up some of what they want.
  - a. an agreement
  - b. a law
  - c. *a compromise*
  - d. an argument

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 3: The Bill of Rights: Protecting the Rights of Individuals

### Comprehension Questions

1. What promise was made to get the Constitution approved?
  - a. The promise to end slavery.
  - b. The promise to give women the right to vote.
  - c. The promise to add more protections for people's individual rights.
  - d. The promise to vote on a new Constitution every ten years.
  
2. How did the Bill of Rights get added to the Constitution?
  - a. The Bill of Rights was approved by the states.
  - b. The Constitutional Convention started over with a new constitution.
  - c. The president gave an order to add the Bill of Rights.
  - d. Other countries voted on the Bill of Rights.
  
3. Three of the ideas below are included in the Bill of Rights. Which one is **not** included?
  - a. You have the right to say what you think.
  - b. You have the right to gather in groups.
  - c. You have the right to choose your own religion.
  - d. The government has the right to tell you who to vote for.

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 3: The Bill of Rights: Protecting the Rights of Individuals

### Vocabulary Questions

1. A change to the U.S. Constitution is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *an amendment*
  - b. a guarantee
  - c. the separation of powers
  - d. the Great Compromise
  
2. The right to publish information and opinions in a newspaper is called freedom of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the jury
  - b. religion
  - c. *the press*
  - d. petition
  
3. Using power in an unfair way is called \_\_\_\_\_ of power.
  - a. *abuse*
  - b. freedom
  - c. protection
  - d. fear
  
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a list of basic human rights that are guaranteed by the laws of a country.
  - a. list of amendments
  - b. *bill of rights*
  - c. government order
  - d. declaration

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 4: Bringing Equal Rights to All Americans

### Comprehension Questions

1. When was slavery ended in the United States?
  - a. Before the Civil War.
  - b. In 1864, when Frederick Douglass made an important speech.
  - c. After the Civil War, when the states approved the 13th amendment.
  - d. At the Constitutional Convention.
  
2. When were all African Americans guaranteed the right to vote?
  - a. When all voters were required to pay a poll tax.
  - b. In 1964, when the 24th Amendment was added to the Constitution.
  - c. When the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.
  - d. In 1863, when President Lincoln ended slavery.
  
3. When did women win the right to vote?
  - a. In 1920, when the 19th Amendment was approved.
  - b. Just after the Civil War.
  - c. On July 4th, 1776, during the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
  - d. In 1787, at the Constitutional Convention.

---

# How the U.S. Government Came to Be

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



## Chapter 4: Bringing Equal Rights to All Americans

### Vocabulary Questions

1. People who wanted to end slavery were called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. delegates
  - b. slave owners
  - c. representatives
  - d. abolitionists
  
2. Starting in the mid 1800s, many women began to demand the right to vote. This was also called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. independence
  - b. a proclamation
  - c. suffrage
  - d. a compromise
  
3. The struggle to gain equal rights for African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s is called the \_\_\_\_\_ movement.
  - a. civil rights
  - b. British
  - c. freedom
  - d. bill of rights
  
4. Martin Luther King believed in a kind of peaceful protest called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. suffrage
  - b. nonviolence
  - c. separation of powers
  - d. emancipation