

How the U.S. Government Came to Be

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Quizzes

Contents

Chapter 1

The Declaration of Independence: Giving Birth to a New Country 3

Chapter 2

The Constitution: Creating a New Government 5

Chapter 3

The Bill of Rights: Protecting the Rights of Individuals 7

Chapter 4

Bringing Equal Rights to All Americans 9

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

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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

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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

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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