

Forming a New Nation

Chapter 2 Section 1



MAIN IDEA

America declared independence from Great Britain in 1776 and won the Revolutionary War in 1783.



HSS 11.1

Students analyze the significant events in the founding of the nation and its attempts to realize the philosophy of government described in the Declaration of Independence.

Key Terms and People

Stamp Act British law that required colonists to pay for an official government stamp on certain documents

Boston Massacre the killing of five colonists when British soldiers fired into a crowd

Battle of Lexington first battle of the Revolutionary War

Thomas Jefferson member of the Second Continental Congress; writer of the first draft of the Declaration of Independence

George Washington leader of the Continental Army

Common Sense pamphlet that convinced many people to support independence

Declaration of Independence document that announced the colonies' break with Britain

Battle of Saratoga battle that is considered to be the turning point in the Revolutionary War

Battle of Yorktown the last major battle of the Revolutionary War

Treaty of Paris the document in which Britain recognized the United States as a country

Section Summary

THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

After the French and Indian War, Britain had a huge war debt. The British thought the colonists should pay for the cost of maintaining the North American empire. Parliament passed many laws to raise money. One of these was the **Stamp Act**. This law required colonists to pay for an official government stamp on certain documents. The colonists thought this was unfair and many protested. In 1770 British soldiers fired into a crowd in Boston. Five colonists died. This was called the **Boston Massacre**. In 1774 the First Continental Congress met. They issued a Declaration of Rights. Britain wanted to arrest colonial leaders. Colonists fought back in the **Battle of Lexington**. The American Revolution had begun.

Why did Britain pass laws to raise money?

Underline the name of the document the First Continental Congress issued.

Forming a New Nation

Chapter 2 Section 1

DECLARING INDEPENDENCE

In 1775 the Second Continental Congress met.

Thomas Jefferson was a member. **George**

Washington was selected to lead the Continental Army. Not everyone wanted independence. Some delegates issued the Olive Branch Petition. This asked for reconciliation with Britain. The king refused to read it. The battles of Bunker Hill and Dorchester Heights followed. Thomas Paine wrote the pamphlet *Common Sense*. This influenced many people to support independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the **Declaration of Independence**. About a quarter of the population stayed loyal to the king.

What did the king do with the Olive Branch Petition?

THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES

The colonists lost the first battles. Then they won the **Battle of Saratoga** in New York. This battle is considered the turning point in the war. African Americans had fought at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. Still, they were not allowed to enlist in the army until later in the war. About 5,000 fought on the Patriots' side.

What role did African Americans play in the war?

AN AMERICAN VICTORY

After Saratoga the war shifted to the South and the western frontier. Several European nations supported the American cause. Americans won some important victories in what are now midwestern states. In the South, Americans made surprise raids on the British. The Marquis de Lafayette's troops gradually forced the British to the coast. With Washington's troops, they trapped the British at Yorktown. Cornwallis had to surrender. The **Battle of Yorktown** was the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. The **Treaty of Paris** is the document in which Great Britain recognized the United States as a country.

Circle the name of the town where Cornwallis surrendered.

Forming a New Nation

Chapter 2 Section 2



MAIN IDEA

After the Revolution, American leaders struggled to form a national government and eventually wrote the Constitution.



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Students analyze the significant events in the founding of the nation and its attempts to realize the philosophy of government described in the Declaration of Independence.

Key Terms and People

Articles of Confederation America's first national constitution

James Madison man who played such a significant role in planning and writing the Constitution that he is called the Father of the Constitution

checks and balances system in which the three branches of government keep each other in control

legislative branch branch of government that makes the laws

executive branch branch of government that carries out the laws

judicial branch branch of government that interprets the laws as they relate to the Constitution

Federalists supporters of the Constitution

Antifederalists opponents of the Constitution

ratification official approval of the Constitution

Bill of Rights basic rights added to the Constitution to make sure liberties were protected

Section Summary

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

Americans had to create a new government. They did not want a king or any other supreme authority. Instead, they wanted a republic. It would be ruled with the agreement of the people. However, this idea did not apply to African Americans, Native Americans, or women. Congress adopted the **Articles of Confederation** in 1777. This document gave the government the power to set national policies. It also gave the government the right to borrow and set up post offices. However, the government did not have the right to impose or collect taxes. Therefore, it could not pay some of the soldiers from the Revolution.

The end of the war caused many economic problems. It affected trade negatively. It also brought inflation. There were riots in several places.

To whom did republican ideals not apply in post-Revolutionary America?

What right did the government NOT have under the Articles?

Forming a New Nation

Chapter 2 Section 2

The government did establish a pattern for settling the western lands. In 1785 it drew up a plan for surveying, selling, and settling the territory.

DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION

Many people were frustrated by the Articles of Confederation. In 1786 Washington and **James Madison** called a meeting to discuss the situation. Next, Congress called for a Constitutional Convention. Madison took a key role in planning and writing the Constitution. He is often called the Father of the Constitution. The major issue at the Convention was how to balance the power of big states and small states. The Great Compromise settled the issue. It called for two houses in Congress. One was based on population. In the other, all states had an equal voice. A system of **checks and balances** was set up. This kept any one branch from getting control. There are three branches. **The legislative branch** makes the laws. **The executive branch** carries out the laws. **The judicial branch** interprets the laws as they relate to the Constitution.

What was the major issue at the Constitutional Convention?

What was set up to keep any one branch of government from getting control?

RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

Supporters of the Constitution were called **Federalists**. Those opposed to the Constitution were called **Antifederalists**. They were afraid that a strong national government would lead to tyranny. Three leading Federalists wrote a series of essays to convince people to ratify the Constitution. Only nine states had to vote for **ratification**, or approval, of the Constitution for it to be accepted. One thing the Antifederalists wanted was a **Bill of Rights**. This would spell out some basic rights to make sure they would be protected. Some states voted to ratify only because they were promised a Bill of Rights. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights.

Why did the Antifederalists oppose the Constitution?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Forming a New Nation

Chapter 2 Section 3



MAIN IDEA

Under presidents Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, the United States continued to shape its new government while facing both foreign and domestic challenges.



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Key Terms and People

Alexander Hamilton first secretary of the treasury

Democratic-Republicans supporters of Thomas Jefferson; believed in a small central government

Judiciary Act of 1789 act with which Congress organized the judiciary branch

strict constructionist person who believed that government had only the powers specifically granted it by the Constitution

loose constructionist person who believed that the Constitution allows actions that are not specifically mentioned in it

Whiskey Rebellion violent protest in Pennsylvania against a tax on whiskey

John Adams second president of the United States

Marbury v. Madison court case that established the Supreme Court's right to declare that a law violates the Constitution

Louisiana Purchase purchase of territory that roughly doubled the size of the United States

War of 1812 war between Britain and the United States

Section Summary

WASHINGTON BECOMES PRESIDENT

One of the first things Washington did was to form the first cabinet, a group of advisors to the president. He appointed **Alexander Hamilton** as the secretary of the treasury. Thomas Jefferson was secretary of state. Hamilton and Jefferson disagreed about policies. Hamilton led the Federalists. They believed in a strong central government. Jefferson and Madison led the **Democratic-Republicans**. They believed in more power to state governments than to the federal government. In the **Judiciary Act of 1789**, Congress organized the judiciary branch. The new government faced financial problems. Hamilton believed creating a national bank would help fix those problems. Jefferson was a **strict constructionist**. This meant

Circle the name of the first secretary of state.

Why did Hamilton want a national bank?

Forming a New Nation**Chapter 2 Section 3**

that he believed that the government had only those powers specifically given to it by the Constitution. He did not believe that the government had the power to create a national bank. Hamilton was a **loose constructionist**. He believed that the government had powers that were not specifically mentioned.

CHALLENGES IN THE 1790s

There was a revolution in France in 1789. Washington kept the United States neutral. Some treaties were signed with Great Britain. At home, there was violence in Pennsylvania. This was called the **Whiskey Rebellion**. It was a protest against a tax on whiskey. At the same time, there was conflict with Native Americans in the Northwest Territory. In the late 1790s **John Adams** became the second president.

What was the United States policy on the French Revolution?

JEFFERSON'S PRESIDENCY

The election of 1800 was tied. The House of Representatives decided Jefferson should be president. This led to an amendment that set up separate ballots for president and vice president. The court case **Marbury v. Madison** established the Supreme Court's right to declare that a law violates the Constitution. One of Jefferson's major achievements was the **Louisiana Purchase**. This roughly doubled the size of the United States.

Underline the outcome of *Marbury v. Madison*.

THE WAR OF 1812

The United States was caught in the middle between France and Britain, who were fighting a war. Britain forced some Americans into the British navy. This caused the **War of 1812**. This was the second war between British and American forces. The Americans won.

Why did the United States enter the War of 1812?
