ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What are the key articles of the United States Constitution?

PROCEDURES:

| Day One | Please read the article titled “Reading/Graphic Organizer #1-Preamble to the Constitution”. Then answer the 3 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #1”. |
| Day Two | Please read the article titled “Reading #2- The Contents of the U.S. Constitution”. Then answer the 6 multiple choice and 6 matching questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #2” |
| Day Three | Please read the article titled “Reading #3- Federalist/Anti-Federalist Debate”. Then complete the 3 short answer questions in the box labeled “Assignment #3”. |

WORK TO BE RETURNED:

| Assignment #1 | Responses to 3 questions |
| Assignment #2 | Responses to 6 multiple choice and 6 matching questions |
| Assignment #3 | Responses to 3 short answer questions |

RESOURCES:

Assignment #1- Teacher created Preamble graphic organizer
Assignment #2 and #3- iCivics Adapted Readings

TIME ALLOCATED:

| Assignment #1 | 20 minutes |
| Assignment #2 | 20 minutes |
| Assignment #3 | 20 minutes |
The Preamble:
We the People of the United States,
1) in Order to form a more perfect Union, 2) establish Justice, 3) insure domestic Tranquility, 4) provide for the common defense, 5) promote the general Welfare, and 6) secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

What are the 6 Purposes of Government?
The Preamble, or introduction, to the U.S. Constitution lists the 6 purposes of our government - what are they?

1) Form a More Perfect Union
The Framers (writers) of the Constitution thought the purpose of their government plan was to make a solid, lasting government and they wanted the relationship between the states (the Union) to be stronger.

2) Establish Justice
The Framers thought another purpose of government was to ensure fairness in public policies for all citizens. Laws must be upheld consistently, fairly and impartially. “Equal justice for all.”

3) Insure Domestic Tranquility
The Framers thought that an important purpose of government was to keep peace in society. A government needs to have the power to prevent and put down any rebellions, or uprisings in the country.

4) Provide for the Common Defense
The Framers wanted a government that would be able to protect the nation against outside threats. Every state in the nation needed to participate in the defense of the nation as a whole.

5) Promote the General Welfare
The Framers thought that one purpose of government was to work toward making the life of each citizen better. In order to promote the well-being of its citizens the government provides schools and works toward providing clean air, clean water etc.

6) Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity
The Framers thought that one purpose of government was to guarantee the rights and liberties for each individual in this nation, create a paradise of freedom where citizens could look forward to being free themselves and for future generations.
Directions: Complete the following questions below using Reading/Graphic Organizer #1 on the previous page.

1. What important document does the preamble serve as the introduction for?

2. What is the purpose of the preamble? In other words, what does the preamble list/outline?

3. Complete the chart below using Reading/Graphic Organizer #1 on the previous page as your main resource. The first one has been provided as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Government</th>
<th>Definition of the purpose in your own words</th>
<th>Name an example of how the government attempts this purpose today.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1-Form a more perfect union</td>
<td>Set up a government that is strongly tied to the states and unified</td>
<td>All states uniting to control the outbreak of COVID-19 in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2-Establish Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3-Insure Domestic Tranquility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4-Provide for the Common Defense</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>#5-Promote the General Welfare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6-Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The U.S. Constitution is the document that creates our nation’s government. The contents of the Constitution create the three branches of our government and give directions for how the federal government works. Although the Constitution was written in 1787, over 220 years ago, it still guides our officials in running our country today. It is the oldest written constitution in the world that is still in use.

**Article 1** is the first and longest part of the Constitution. It creates the legislative branch of our government. Members of the legislature, or law-making body, are responsible for turning citizens’ wants and needs into laws. Article 1 creates a legislature called Congress and divides it into two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Article I describes how Congress should be organized, tells what qualifications legislators must have, and says how often Congress should hold elections and meet as a group. It also describes other details of operation that each house of Congress gets to decide for itself.

**Article 2** of the Constitution describes the job of the executive branch. This branch executes, or carries out, laws. The president heads this branch, which also includes the vice president and many departments in charge of carrying out the government’s day-to-day business. Article 2 describes who qualifies to be the president, what powers the office has, and what happens if a president misbehaves! It also explains the Electoral College, which is the process of how the president is selected.

**Article 3** creates the judicial branch. The judicial branch interprets laws to decide what they mean and whether they have been followed in specific cases. Article 3 creates the Supreme Court and authorizes Congress to create federal courts below the Supreme Court. These are courts that deal with United States laws, not state laws. Article 3 also gives directions about what kinds of cases the Supreme Court and federal courts can hear. Under Article 3, federal judges are appointed, not elected. They stay on the bench until they retire, die, or are removed for bad behavior.

**Article 4** of the Constitution describes how the states should interact with each other.

The Constitution is not set in stone, and **Article 5** describes how it can be changed! A change or addition to the Constitution is called an amendment. The founding fathers purposely made it extremely difficult to amend the Constitution.

Federalism is the idea that the national government shares power with the state governments. But what happens if a state law disagrees with a national or federal law? **Article 6** states that the laws and treaties of the U.S. government are “the supreme law of the land.” If a state law disagrees with a federal law, federal law wins.

**Article 7** says the Constitution could not take effect until at least nine out of the thirteen states approved it. (Back then, there were only thirteen states.) Each state held its own convention to discuss and vote on the Constitution’s plan for government. But getting approval wasn’t easy. Some people thought the seven articles weren’t enough. After much debate, it was agreed that ten amendments would be added to the Constitution. These amendments, called the Bill of Rights, would list specific rights not already mentioned in the Constitution.
Assignment #2
Directions: Using Reading #2, write the correct answer to each of the multiple choice questions on the line provided next to the number.

1. Which article in the Constitution is the longest?
   a. Article 1
   b. Article 2
   c. Article 3
   d. Article 4

3. According to the Constitution, which branch of government is responsible for making the laws?
   a. Legislative
   b. Executive
   c. Judicial
   d. None

5. What does the Constitution say is the “supreme law of the land”? 
   a. The Bill of Rights
   b. State laws
   c. The amendments
   d. U.S. or federal laws

2. According to the Constitution, which branch of government is responsible for hearing cases about laws and deciding what the laws mean?
   a. Legislative
   b. Executive
   c. Judicial
   d. None

4. According to the Constitution, which branch of government is responsible for making sure the laws are carried out and enforced?
   a. Legislative
   b. Executive
   c. Judicial
   d. None

6. What was added to the Constitution that listed rights not already in the Constitution?
   a. The 14th amendment
   b. The approval of all 13 states
   c. The Bill of Rights
   d. The Necessary and Proper Clause

Matching Directions: On the line next to the number, write the letter of the description that correctly matches with the articles of the Constitution.

Articles
1. Articles 1-3
2. Article 4
3. The Amendments
4. Article 6
5. Article 7
6. Article 5

Descriptions
A. Discusses how states should interact with each other
B. Supreme Law of the Land
C. Creates the three branches of the U.S. government
D. Additions to the Constitution
E. How to amend the Constitution
F. How to ratify the Constitution

Reading #3-Federalist/Anti Federalist Debate

Federalists: Yay for Central Government!
Federalists wanted a strong central government. They believed that a strong central government was necessary if the states were going to band together to form a nation. A strong central government could represent the nation to other countries. It could also control individual states that would not cooperate with the rest. Federalists also believed that a strong central government could best protect individual citizens’ rights and freedoms. Federalists were not afraid of the central government created by the Constitution because it had three branches—the executive, legislative, and judicial—that could limit each other’s power. That way, the central government could not become too powerful.

**Anti-Federalists: Down with Central Government!**

In a system where a central government shares power with smaller units of government, such as states, the term federal refers to the central government. On one side of the Constitution debate, anti-federalists wanted a small central government. They believed local governments best understood what citizens needed and would best protect citizens’ freedom. Anti-federalists opposed parts of the Constitution they thought limited the power of the states. They feared that a strong central government would overpower state governments, and eventually state governments would lose their independence and influence. They also didn’t like that the original Constitution did not guarantee citizens any specific rights. They feared that a central government would become so powerful it would be just like having a king.

**Constitution + Bill of Rights = Ratification**

Looking back, both groups were right—just in their own ways. The Federalists were focused on addressing the failures of the Articles of Confederation and had firsthand experience in creating the new Constitution to do just that. (Both Madison and Hamilton were present at the Constitutional Convention.) The Anti-Federalists focused further back to when the 13 colonies had to throw off the rule of an unlimited and abusive English government. They saw the new Constitution as an over correction, one that threatened state rule and the personal freedoms for which the American Revolution was fought. Both views wanted to avoid a tyrannical government under the British, but they couldn’t agree on the best way to avoid it. Although the Federalists eventually won, the Anti-Federalists gained a small but important victory through the addition of the Bill of Rights.

**Assignment #3**

**Directions:** Using the information provided in reading 3, the other readings, and your own knowledge respond to the following short answer questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What reasons did Federalists have for supporting the Constitution?

2. What reasons did Anti-Federalists have for opposing the Constitution?

3. How was the debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists resolved in the end to make both groups happy?