

Guided Lesson Notes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Name: American Democracy: Founding Principles

Directions: Complete this study guide as you move through the lesson. By taking notes, you are more likely to remember what you are learning. The completed study guide can be used for practice activities and to prepare for quizzes and exams. Be sure to save each study guide so you can access it when you need it.

Essential Vocabulary

As you encounter these government terms in the lesson, enter the meaning and an example (or two) for each. You can even draw pictures. If there are other unfamiliar words you find, enter them in the blank spaces provided.

<i>confederate</i>	<i>federal</i>
<i>John Locke</i>	<i>Charles-Louis Montesquieu</i>
<i>Machiavelli</i>	<i>William Blackston</i>
<i>Alexis de Tocqueville</i>	

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A Tax Too Far

How did the American colonists decide that their independence from Britain was both warranted and necessary?

Key Event	Colonial Reaction	Significance to the Road Toward Revolution
Sugar Act (1764)	Colonists protested, saying Parliament had no right to tax them without representation.	Sparked early resistance to British taxation and control.
Stamp Act (1765)		
Stamp Act Repealed (1767)		
British Troops Sent to Boston (1768)		
Tea Act (1773)		
New England Restraining Act (1775)		
"Common Sense" by Thomas Paine (1776)		

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**Declaration of
Independence
(1776)**

All Together Now

Describe the best form of democratic government for the newly formed United States.

Type	Explanation	Why would you pick it?	Why wouldn't you pick it?
Unitary			
Confederate			

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Federal			
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Getting It Right

Describe the origins of American federalism.

Topic	Key Details
Main Advocates of Federalism	
Purpose of Federalism	
Key Principles	
Historical Concerns	

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Benefits of a Strong Central Government	
Compromises and Coordination	

A Narrow Path

Describe the historical models and their limitations.

Idea	What the founders noticed or admired	Limits or concerns
Ancient Greece	Early example of democracy; idea of citizen participation in government.	Democracy was limited to wealthy males; slavery was common; many citizens couldn't vote.
Ancient Rome		

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European Monarchies		
The Enlightenment		
Southern Colonies' Aristocracy		

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A Basis for Legitimacy

As you watch both parts of the video, compare Hobbes and Locke.

Philosopher	Belief About Human Nature	View of Government	Famous Idea
Hobbes			
Locke			

As you watch the video clips, fill in the chart as you imagine life without government.

Term	What It Means
State of Nature	

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Locke's View	
Hobbes's View	

Reflection Questions

Which philosopher do you agree with more—Locke or Hobbes? Why?

Why do you think Locke's ideas were important for the Declaration of Independence?

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Creating Balance

Describe Montesquieu and the US Constitution.

Category	Details
Who Was He?	Charles-Louis Montesquieu was a French Enlightenment philosopher from the 17th–18th centuries. His ideas greatly influenced American colonists.
Main Ideas	
Impact on US Government	
Why It Matters Today	

A Change of Heart

Describe Niccolo Machiavelli.

Category	Details
Who Was He?	

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Main Ideas	
Impact on American Government	

Universal Law

Describe William Blackstone.

Category	Details
Who Was He?	
Main Ideas	

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**Impact on
US
Government**

A Passion Dimmed

Describe Alexis de Tocqueville.

Category	Details
Who Was He?	
Main Ideas	
Impact on US Government	