Constitution Unit

This Unit is Interesting Because. . .

-The decisions made by the Founders run our government today

-The convention was full of drama, argument, and compromise

-The United States has spent the last 200 years grant rights (slowly) to those left out at the Constitutional Convention

Unit Outline:

Part One—Problems

-Articles of Confederation

-Shays’ Rebellion

-Convention Role Play

Part Two—Compromises

-Convention Delegates

-James Madison and the Virginia Plan

-The Great Compromise

-Slavery

Part Three—Ratification

-Federalism

-The Ratification Fight

-The Bill of Rights

Part Four—A Living Document

-Changing the Constitution

-A Guide to the Constitution and Bill of Rights

-Constitutional Issues in Modern America

Constitution Review Sheet

Essential Questions:

1. Describe the government under the Articles of Confederation.

2. Why did Shays’ Rebellion happen? Why was it important?

3. Name and explain the compromises that had to do with slavery.

4. Explain the compromises at the Convention regarding slavery.

5. Describe the Virginia Plan. Why did small states disagree? How was the conflict resolved?

6. Who were the Anti-federalists? What were their arguments? Who were the Federalists? What were their arguments?

7. The Constitution provided a framework for a limited government, list the various principles that were built into this process.

8. What are the 3 branches of government? What does each branch do? How can each branch limit the power of the others?

People:

James Madison George Washington Daniel Shays

Edmund Randolph

Terms:

Shays Rebellion Constitution Checks and Balances

Virginia Plan New Jersey Plan Great Compromise

Supremacy Clause Separation of Powers Federalist

Anti-Federalist Bill of Rights Ratify

Elastic Clause