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USI.7 Consitution and New Nation
Vocabulary and Comprehension work

Part 1: Read and understand the following Vocabulary Words and answer the questions in Part 2

1. **Confederation** (kon-fed-uh-RAY-shun) - A group of states joined together for a common purpose.
2. **Ratification** (rat-uh-fuh-KAY-shun) - Official approval or confirmation of a decision or law.
3. **Compromise** (KOM-pruh-mize) - An agreement where both sides give up something to reach a solution.
4. **Convention** (kun-VEN-shun) - A formal meeting to discuss and decide on important issues.
5. **Constitution** (kon-stuh-TOO-shun) - The written set of rules for the U.S. government.
6. **Amendment** (uh-MEND-ment) - A change or addition to a document, like the Constitution.
7. **Federal** (FED-uh-rul) - A system where power is shared between national and state governments.
8. **Judicial** (joo-DISH-uhl) - Related to courts and judges who interpret laws.
9. **Legislative** (LEJ-is-lay-tiv) - The branch of government that makes laws.
10. **Executive** (eg-ZEK-yuh-tiv) - The branch of government that carries out and enforces laws.

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Part 2: Vocabulary Activity

Matching: Match the definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B by writing the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

Column A	Column B
___ 1. A system where power is shared between the state and national governments	A. **Constitution**
___ 2. The written set of rules for the U.S. government	B. **Compromise**
___ 3. A meeting to discuss important decisions	C. **Legislative**
___ 4. A change or addition to a document	D. **Federal**
___ 5. A group of states joined together for a common purpose	E. **Ratification**
___ 6. The branch of government that makes laws	F. **Confederation**
___ 7. A decision that requires both sides to give up something	G. **Executive**
___ 8. Official approval of a decision	H. **Convention**
___ 9. The branch of government that enforces laws	I. **Judicial**
___ 10. The branch of government that interprets laws	J. **Amendment**

Fill in the blanks: Use the words from the word bank below to complete the sentences.

Word Bank: **Judicial, Legislative, Executive, Convention, Constitution, Amendment, Federal, Confederation, Ratification, Compromise**

1. The United States' first government was a _____ of states that worked together.
2. The _____ of the Constitution required nine states to approve it.
3. The delegates at the Constitutional _____ decided to write a new government plan.
4. The U.S. _____ explains the rules of the government.
5. An _____ can be added to the Constitution to make changes.
6. The United States has a_____ system where national and state governments share power.
7. The _____ branch of government makes laws.
8. The _____ branch of government enforces the laws.
9. The_____ branch of government interprets laws and settles disputes.
10. A _____ helped settle the debate over state representation in Congress.

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Part 3: Read and understand the Passage, then answer the questions

The United States faced many challenges after gaining independence. The first government was based on the **Articles of Confederation**, which created a weak national government. It could not collect taxes or regulate trade, and it had no **executive** or **judicial** branches. Because of these weaknesses, the states decided to create a new government plan, the **Constitution**. *The Articles of Confederation was the first government of the United States.*

Delegates met at the **Constitutional Convention** to write the **U.S. Constitution**. They created a **federal** system where power is shared between state and national governments. The new government had three branches: the **legislative** branch to make laws, the **executive** branch to enforce laws, and the **judicial** branch to interpret laws. They also made **compromises** on issues like state representation and slavery. *The Constitutional Convention led to the writing of the U.S. Constitution.*

Once the **Constitution** was written, it had to go through **ratification**. Nine states needed to approve it before it could become law. The **Bill of Rights** was added as the first ten **amendments to protect individual freedoms**. These amendments were inspired by the **Virginia Declaration of Rights** and the **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom**. *The Bill of Rights guarantees individual rights in the U.S. Constitution.*

The first five **presidents** helped shape the new nation. **George Washington** established the **federal court system**. **John Adams** led during the rise of a two-party system. **Thomas Jefferson** bought the **Louisiana Territory**. **James Madison** led the country through the **War of 1812**, and **James Monroe** introduced the **Monroe Doctrine** to warn European countries against interfering in the Americas. The first five presidents made important contributions to the United States. Their leadership helped strengthen the country. The **federal government** became stronger, new lands were added, and the U.S. gained respect from other nations. The decisions made during this time continue to shape the country today. *The first five presidents strengthened the nation through their leadership.*

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Part 4: Essay Questions Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Use evidence from the passage to support your answers.

1. How did the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation lead to the creation of the U.S. Constitution?

2. How did the U.S. Constitution organize the structure of the new government?

3. How did the Bill of Rights address concerns about individual freedoms?

4. Why were the first five presidents significant in shaping the new nation?

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Standard USI.7a

Objective: Explain the weaknesses and outcomes of the government established by the Articles of Confederation.

_____1.) What was a major weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
- A. It allowed states to have unequal voting power.
- B. It provided for a strong national government.
- C. It gave Congress no power to tax.
- D. It created an effective system for trade regulation.

_____2.) What was one accomplishment of the Articles of Confederation?
- A. Establishment of the Northwest Ordinance
- B. Creation of a strong national army
- C. Introduction of a national currency
- D. Signing of the Constitution

_____3.) Why did the Articles of Confederation fail to unite the states effectively?
- A. It allowed states to secede from the Union.
- B. It gave too much power to the federal government.
- C. It lacked executive and judicial branches.
- D. It prevented states from making decisions.

Standard USI.7b

Objective: Describe the historical development of the Constitution of the United States.

_____4.) Who is known as the “Father of the Constitution”?
- A. George Washington
- B. James Madison
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Benjamin Franklin

_____5.) What was the purpose of the Great Compromise?
- A. To establish state borders
- B. To resolve representation issues in Congress
- C. To limit the power of the federal government
- D. To abolish slavery in the new Constitution

_____6.) What document influenced the creation of the Bill of Rights?
- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. Virginia Declaration of Rights
- C. Articles of Confederation
- D. Northwest Ordinance

Standard USI.7c

Objective: Describe the major accomplishments of the first five presidents of the United States.

_____7.) What major land acquisition occurred during Thomas Jefferson’s presidency?
- A. Florida Purchase
- B. Louisiana Purchase
- C. Oregon Territory
- D. Alaska Purchase

_____8.) Which president introduced the Monroe Doctrine, warning European nations not to interfere in the Western Hemisphere?
- A. John Adams
- B. James Madison
- C. James Monroe
- D. Thomas Jefferson

_____9.) During George Washington’s presidency, which system was established to organize the national court system?
- A. Federal Reserve
- B. Federal Court System
- C. National Assembly
- D. Continental Congress

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