

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Representative Government

The colonists were fed up with dealing with the King of England. “No taxation without representation!” was a common cry. In the Declaration of Independence, the Founders explained that the purpose of government was to protect the “unalienable rights” of the people. Governments should work with the people of a nation to ensure safety and happiness. So when establishing a new government for the United States, it was important to the Founders that everyone’s voices be heard. But how? With the size of the United States, and the population growing in the colonies, a direct democracy would be very difficult. They needed a way for all American citizens to be involved in government, even if they lived far away from the capital.

In the U.S. Constitution, the Framers decided on a representative form of government. A representative form of government is when citizens vote for elected officials to make rules, laws, and decisions on their behalf.

Read the following quotes. After discussing as a class, summarize how each statement supports the idea of a representative form of government.

“Consent of the Governed” From the Declaration of Independence	
“We the People” From the U.S. Constitution	
“A government of the people, by the people, and for the people” From the Gettysburg Address	

What are some of the reasons the United States chose a representative form of government?

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