

Name: _____

Foundation of the U.S. Government- **SAMPLE ANSWERS**

After the Revolutionary War, the Founders had a much better idea of what they wanted in a government and what they did not want. They knew they didn't want a monarchy like they'd had before. But what would their new government look like? Three little words established the foundation for this new nation: "We The People". The power was placed in the hands of the people, not in the government. The Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution to ensure that people's rights were protected.

Below we're going to learn about the **principles** (key ideas) that make up the foundation of the U.S. government.

1.

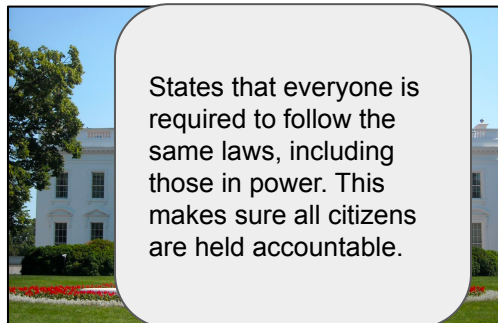
Checks and balances



Gives each branch the power to question or argue the decision made by another branch. This ensures multiple voices and perspectives are heard when making decisions.

2.

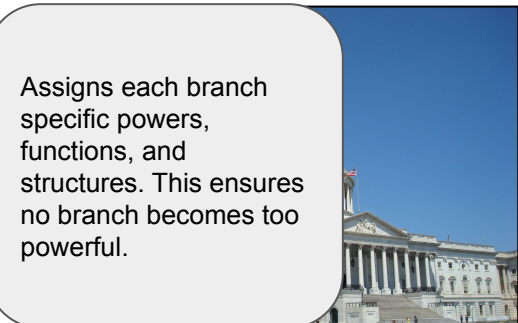
Rule of law



States that everyone is required to follow the same laws, including those in power. This makes sure all citizens are held accountable.

3.

Separation of powers



Assigns each branch specific powers, functions, and structures. This ensures no branch becomes too powerful.

5.

Popular sovereignty

States that government is based on the "consent of the people." Citizens have a voice in deciding who is elected into office to represent their interests.



4.

Federalism

Divides power between the national and state governments. This system reserves all powers not outlined in the U.S. Constitution for the states.

