

# We the People

## Unit 1

We have spent hours compiling these sites, and have tried to be very careful in screening for content just prior to releasing this information to students. However, websites frequently update content, so close supervision of young students is always necessary with this type of research. We have discussed this in class, and do monitor it closely here at school. We highly recommend parental supervision at home, as well. If an updated website should contain inappropriate content, please contact the teacher immediately.

**1. What was life like for the average colonist and how did it influence their ideas about government?**

<https://www.allabouthistory.org/colonial-life-in-america.htm>

[https://www.kidinfo.com/american\\_history/colonization\\_colonial\\_life.html](https://www.kidinfo.com/american_history/colonization_colonial_life.html)

Life in the colonies

<http://nie.jonesmedia.biz/doc/WeThePeopleUnit2.pdf>

Middle School WTP Book

**2. According to the Founders, what are the basic purposes of government?**

[http://www.constitution.org/bcp/right\\_col.htm](http://www.constitution.org/bcp/right_col.htm)

Samuel Adams, Rights of Colonists

<http://www.sullivan-county.com/bush/constitution.htm>

Democracy and origins of the Constitution

**3. Why did the Framers think a constitution was necessary to achieve these purposes?**

<http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch17s21.html>

Constitutional Government: Alexander Hamilton

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=799>

A Constitutional government by Woodrow Wilson

<http://www.rain.org/~karpeles/billrightsdisc.html>

Bill of Rights

**4. Which did the Founders think was more important, the common good or individual rights?**

[http://hua.umf.maine.edu/Reading\\_Revolutions/Adams.html](http://hua.umf.maine.edu/Reading_Revolutions/Adams.html)

John Adams, a strong believer in Individual Rights...

## **5. Does our government still serve the purposes that the Framers intended?**

<http://constitutionality.us/TheConstitution.html> This site argues that the federal Government has become too powerful, the Libertarian view of "An Average Joe Citizen"

<http://www.governmentisgood.com/articles.php?aid=18>  
This site argues more gov't does not mean less freedom

<http://www.common-place.org/vol-02/no-04/author/>  
Still the Framers' Constitution? 2002 article, but raises some interesting issues.

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1989/88-1213>

Employment Division v. Smith Supreme Court case involving religious practices--first amendment, freedom of expression, individual rights v. common good

## **6. From where did the Framers get their ideas about good government?**

<http://hnn.us/articles/12974.html> A Stanford professor of history explores the theory that the Founders were deeply influenced by the Indian idea of liberty.

<http://www.ushistory.org/gov/2.asp>

<http://www.apstudynotes.org/us-history/topics/philosophy-of-american-revolution/>  
Sources of ideas that shaped the American plan of government.

<http://www.sullivan-county.com/bush/constitution.htm>  
Democracy and origins of the Constitution

<http://www.americassurvivalguide.com/montesquieu.php>  
Baron Montesquieu and separation of powers

<http://www.rjgeib.com/thoughts/nature/hobbes-bio.html>  
Thomas Hobbes and absolute monarchy

<http://www.ushistory.org/civ/6a.asp>

Roman Republic

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Locke>

John Locke and the state of nature

**What does it mean to consent to be governed? Please give examples.**

<http://democracyweb.org/consent-of-the-governed-history> Consent of the governed

history

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-contract>

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-social-contract.htm> What is a social contract?

<http://www.thomhartmann.com/forum/2012/10/how-do-we-measure-consent-governed>

How Do We Measure Consent of the Governed? Opinion, but good example of consent  
Of the governed.