The U.S. Constitution

Study Guide

Write answers to the study guide on a separate piece of paper.

**Key terms**: Provide a definition for each term:

federalism

legislative branch

executive branch

judicial branch

The U.S. Constitution as the “supreme law of the land”

**Short answer:** Write 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of each of the following:

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

Shay’s Rebellion

The Great Compromise

The Three-Fifths compromise

checks and balances

Name at least two powers that the Constitution gave to the federal government and explain why it is logical (makes sense) for the federal government to have these powers.

Name at least two powers that the state governments have

**Extended Response:** Compose a paragraph that answers each of the topics

1. Why did the Articles of Confederation prove inadequate for governing the new nation?

Consider these points:

* national unity under the Confederation
* the lack of an executive branch
* economic issues such as taxation and national debt

2. What key conflicts emerged at the Constitutional Convention? Analyze these conflicts and explain how the framers resolved them.

Consider these points:

* conflicts between large and small states
* conflicts between North and South
* conflicts between Federalists and Antifederalists
* enumerated and reserved powers (federal and state)
* separation of powers within the national government