Forging a New Nation

The Six Basic Principles of the Constitution of the United States
1) Popular Sovereignty

Power to the People!!
2) Limited Government

Reserved powers are **RESERVED** for the state (i.e: education!).

Delegated Powers are **DELEGATED** to the federal government (i.e. the power to declare war).

What we say goes!
3) Separation of Powers

These branches would all have their own area of authority.
Checks and balances give each Branch the opportunity to “check” or stop another branch.
WHERE CAN WE FIND THE VICE PRESIDENT?

IN A SECURE, UNDISCLOSED LOCATION OUTSIDE THIS DIAGRAM.
1. The president gets to ____________ justices, but the Senate gets to ____________, or reject, the appointments.
Examples of Checks and Balances

2. The president signs _______________ with other nations, **treaties**
   **BUT** the Senate can either _______________ (approve)
   **ratify** or reject the treaties.
3. The Congress writes new laws, **BUT** the president gets to **veto**, or **reject**, the law. He can also sign the law into effect.

If the president vetoes the law, Congress can still **override** his/her veto with 2/3 vote of each house.

Furthermore, the **judicial** **branch** gets to decide if the laws are **constitutional** or unconstitutional.
Examples of Checks and Balances

4. The president is the **commander** and **chief** of the military, **BUT** only Congress can **declare** **war**.
5) Judicial Review

That is UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

The president can appoint Supreme Court judges. These judges have the authority to review federal and state cases and interpret the Constitution. This has resulted in landmark cases that have prompted amendments to the constitution.
6) Federalism

Diagram:
- **Central Government**
- **Confederation**
- **Federal System**
- Directions of power:
  - Upward arrows: Direction of power
  - Downward arrows: Direction of power
- Symbols:
  - Empty box: Political unit, i.e., state
"In two words, yes and no."

—A 1949 Herblock Cartoon, © by The Herb Block Foundation
1. Compare this part of the first draft with the equivalent sections in the final copy printed on page 146 of your textbook. Discuss the major changes that were made in the document in only about five weeks time.

**Major Differences:**
- The Preamble in the final copy is much more detailed and concrete;
- The concept of “the United States of America” is assumed rather than stated in the first draft;
- The articles in the final copy are much longer, more explicit, and more detailed than in the first draft.
What change in the government was emphasized when “We the people of the United States” replaced the listing of the individual states in the Preamble?

Why do you think this wording was so important at the time?

The union of the country and the power of the federal government are emphasized over the existence of the individual states and their governments. It was important to declare this union in the Constitution to ensure that the federal government would always remain stronger than the state governments.
The Preamble of the US Constitution:

1. “In order to form a more perfect union”
2. “To establish justice”
3. “To insure domestic tranquility”
4. “To provide for the common defense”
5. “To promote the general welfare”
6. “To secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity”

A. to prevent states from fighting with one another
B. to make sure that future generations will have the same rights and freedoms we enjoy
C. to make the institutions that will guarantee fairness
D. to provide basic human services (education, healthcare, etc.)
E. to create armed forces
F. to unite the government more than the Articles of Confederation