

# Founding a Government

## Activity Suggestion Sheets

### The Constitutional Convention

- Make a t-chart comparing and contrasting the **Articles of Confederation** and the **Constitution**. In each system, consider:
  - The powers of the government and the states
  - How changes are made
  - Which people groups are mentioned
  - Which people groups are missing.
- Learn about the **key players at the Convention**. Then, write a newspaper article from the perspective of a **Federalist or Anti-Federalist**. How would you choose to break the news of the new Constitution?
- Create a persuasive ad for the **Constitution** that convinces the states to ratify it. What features/parts would be appealing? What might you want to leave out? Remember: the states had just fought to leave a monarchy!



### Precedents in Presidency

- Learn more about **Shay's Rebellion**, the **Whiskey Rebellion**, and the **Articles of Confederation**. Create a cause-and-effect chart on how these things were affected by the Revolutionary War.
- Watch a video about Washington's **State of the Union address**. Then, print out and read his address. Highlight parts that are relevant to today.
- George Washington is looking for cabinet members! Create a resume of one of the members of Washington's first cabinet (**Thomas Jefferson**, **Edmund Randolph**, **Alexander Hamilton**, or **Henry Knox**) so they can apply for the position. Make sure to include a header, an objective, experience and education, skills, and references.

### Running for Office

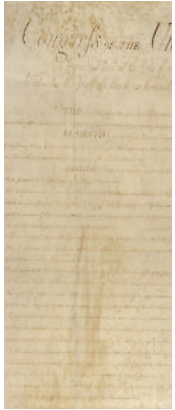
- Read Elizabeth Powel's letter convincing Washington to run for a second term. Outline the reasons she lists for him to run again. Are these valid concerns?
- Read about George Washington stepping down from power and his farewell address. Make your own farewell address to your class, school, or community. What advice would you give to your peers?



THE  
CONSTITUTION



WASHINGTON  
AS PRESIDENT



THE BILL OF  
RIGHTS

### Governing Documents

- Print out and read the **preamble of the Constitution** and annotate it, circling words and phrases that stick with you. Cut out the words and make a creative art piece conveying the message.
- Write an email or letter to the founders of the United States explaining why the **Constitution** is still important in today's world.
- Look at the **Bill of Rights** and propose one or two new amendments that might be relevant to today. What current issues would you want to address? Do you think it would get passed in Congress today? Create a poster to share your amendments with your school or community.