

# Founding a Government

## Activity Suggestion Sheets

### The Constitutional Convention

- Create a persuasive advertisement that convinces a **Federalist or Anti-Federalist** to ratify the new **Constitution and Bill of Rights**. Remember the perspectives of your audience members, and make sure you highlight things that strengthen your argument!
- Watch **A More Perfect Union** (around 20 minutes, starting at the six-minute mark). Then, write a journal entry as if you were a fly on the wall, at the Constitutional Convention. Describe the conversations you heard or the things you saw.
- Find a blank map of the original states. Then, **use this map** that shows the ratification process to label your own. Use colors, numbers, and/or images to demonstrate the order in which the states ratified the Constitution.



### Presidential Precedents: The Cabinet

- Read **this letter** and use the attached sheet to analyze why Washington didn't want to run for president.
- Use **this interactive timeline** to see what Washington's inauguration was like. Then, make your own timeline of your own inauguration, if you were to be president. What would you keep similar? What would you change?
- Choose one of the members of Washington's first cabinet (**Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Randolph, Alexander Hamilton, or Henry Knox**). Make a quick presentation explaining their background and role. At the end, explain if you'd take their advice.

### Running for Office

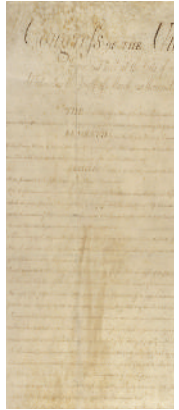
- Read about **George Washington stepping down from power**. Think: was it better for Washington to stay in power (as a familiar and respected leader), or was it more important to set a precedent of peacefully changing power?
  - Find a friend and debate, this question OR write a short paragraph explaining your thoughts. Consider: why might it be good to have new ideas from different leaders?



THE  
CONSTITUTION



WASHINGTON  
AS PRESIDENT



THE BILL OF  
RIGHTS

### Governing Documents

- Read the **preamble of the Constitution** and annotate it. Choose one of the six purposes, rewrite the purpose in your own words, and create an illustration that shows what this purpose is and what it means. Share your illustration with others.
- Create a mind map showing why the **Constitution** is still important in today's world.
- Read the **Bill of Rights**. Then, create your own Bill of Rights for your classroom, school, or family. What rights would you want to include? What problems in your community would you want to address?