

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Social World - Cycle 2 Structures

*"Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among people...Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write."*  
-John Adams



It can be established that from the earliest times, community structures and governments have been a crucial and vibrant part of society. The term government was derived from Latin roots meaning to *steer*. Hence, the government can be described to be the process through which communities or groups of people enforce rules and make decisions that influence human behavior.

In this cycle, we will be looking at the structures and organization of our larger community of the United States and in particular, of our democratic form of government. Our studies will take us to a study of philosophers who debated the ideal form of government and whose views shaped the government we have today in the U.S. We will then focus on the context and history in which the blueprint of our government, the Constitution, was constructed. We will learn about the great debates the Framers of the Constitution had in creating the Constitution and we will examine how the Constitution creates a structure for how rules and laws are created, enforced, and interpreted.

### Essential Questions:

- Is structure really necessary?
- What is your view of human nature? How does that influence the type of government that appeals to you?
- Is it possible to create a structure that meets every citizen's needs?
- How are structures changed?
- What is your role in affecting change in a structured society?

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**What You Will learn:**

1. The importance of having structured societies.
2. The historical significance and relevance of important documents including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.
3. The branches of the U.S. government were created to separate and balance the powers of creating, enforcing and interpreting the law.
4. The rights and responsibilities of American citizens

**What You Will Do:**

1. Work in large and small groups on various projects and activities
2. Annotate Seminar readings and participate in Socratic Seminars
3. Research various aspects of our government

The following are a selection of Formative and Summative Assessments for this unit \*  
subject to change:

Formative Assessments

1. Quizzes Social Studies Content
2. Socratic Seminars on Selected Texts

Summative Assessments

1. Timeline of Life Project
2. Constitution Test