

21st Century Skills



The Constitution

Information Literacy

Recognizing Historical Perspectives

Learning the Skill

Review the basic principles that the U.S. Constitution embodies. Write a definition for each of these principles. Refer back to the chapter for guidance.

| Principles of American Government Outlined in the Constitution | |
|--|--|
| Popular sovereignty | |
| Limited government | |
| Separation of powers | |
| Individual rights | |
| Republicanism | |
| Federalism | |
| Checks and balances | |

21st Century Skills *Cont.*



The Constitution

Practicing the Skill

Identify the particular constitutional principle that seems to be the subject in each quote. In the space provided, mark down the principle you think it is.

“Each State, in ratifying the Constitution, is considered as a sovereign body, independent of all others, and only to be bound by its own voluntary act. In this relation, then, the new Constitution will, if established, be a federal, and not a national constitution.”

—James Madison, *The Federalist*, No. 39

“[I]t is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our government. . . . Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political.”

—Thomas Jefferson, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1801

“The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

—James Madison, *The Federalist*, No. 39

“The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of the consent of the people.”

—Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist*, No. 22

21st Century Skills *Cont.*



The Constitution

Applying the Skill

Now, choose one of the same passages and write what you think the speaker or writer meant.

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