



PS89Q 4th Grade Passport Social Studies

Unit 4: Freedom & the New Nation



Grade: 4th **Unit:** 4 **Time Frame:** beginning February – end of March

Essential Question: What does it mean to be free?

Focus Questions: (What is my child thinking about?)

- What was wrong with the British style of government that helped the colonists shape the new American government?
- How does the Constitution provide help people and keep things fair?
- How do the Federal (State, Local) government promote order and support its citizens?
- What freedoms are given by the government?
- Why were these freedoms chosen?
- How do the freedoms guaranteed by the government affect my every day life?
- How do these freedoms affect the government and my everyday life?
- How have various groups struggled for equality?

Student Outcomes: (What can my child do after this unit is over?)

- Describe the structure of the Federal, State, and Local Government
- Understand the general responsibilities of each level and branch of government
- Discuss the importance of the Constitution and what it does for our country and its citizens
- Connect the freedoms given in the Bill of Rights to everyday life
- Recognize that the Constitution is a living document to be revised as the US grows and changes
- Understand the civil struggles of African Americans and women, and how they received their rights

Performance Tasks: (End-of-Unit tasks)

- Students create a display of the three branches of the federal government, their members and responsibilities; center section focused on the balance of power
= OR =
- Create a pictograph or visual mnemonic for the Bill of Rights
- Take an exam to assess their content knowledge of the Federal, State, Local Governments and the Constitution

Formative Assessment:

- Answers to multiple-choice questions about Social Studies content information that were examined during that period
- Use of notebook to write down information about what they are learning about
- Answers to discussion questions with peers about debatable issues throughout the time period

Extension Activities

- Research: What was the Articles of Confederation? Why was it replaced by the Constitution?
- Informational Writing: Why was George Washington chosen as the first president?
- Opinion Writing: Thomas Jefferson vs. Alexander Hamilton – which side would you be on?
- Book Making: Create an informational book about the Federal Government of the US and the system of checks and balances.