UNIT 1: WHAT WERE THE FOUNDERS’ BASIC IDEAS ABOUT GOVERNMENT?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

Most nations have a constitution, but they do not all have constitutional governments.

- How might people organize a constitutional government to prevent the abuse of power?
- Give an example of a nation in today’s world that you think is not a constitutional government.
- Give reasons for your choice.
UNIT 2: WHAT SHAPED THE FOUNDERS’ THINKING ABOUT GOVERNMENT?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

By the late 1780s, many Founders believed that the Articles of Confederation were not working well.

- What were some achievements of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation?
- What shortcomings did many Founders see in the Articles?
- What arguments could you have made in support of the Articles?
UNIT 3: WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

The Framers put forth various plans to solve the problem of representation in Congress.

- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the Virginia Plan?
- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the New Jersey Plan?
- Do you think the Great Compromise was a good solution to the problem of representation? Why or why not?
UNIT 4: HOW WAS THE CONSTITUTION USED TO ESTABLISH OUR GOVERNMENT?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

Political parties are an important part of our political system today, yet they are not mentioned in the Constitution.

- Why did the Framers fear political parties?
- Why and how did political parties develop?
- Do political parties play a useful role today? Why or why not?
UNIT 5: HOW DOES THE CONSTITUTION PROTECT OUR BASIC RIGHTS?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

The First Amendment states that laws shall not be passed that abridge freedom of speech.

- Why did the Founders think freedom of speech was so important?
- Do you believe there are times when freedom of expression should be limited? Explain your response.
- Should a public speaker who calls for violent action be protected by the First Amendment whereas an audience member who performs the action can be sent to prison? Why or why not?
UNIT 6: WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

Today, the nations of the world are increasingly dependent on each other.

- How have the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights influenced other countries?
- How have other countries influenced the United States?
- How do nations of the world interact with each other?