Social Studies Study Guide

# Preamble

1. Where in the Constitution is the Preamble located?
At the beginning of the Constitution; the introduction.
2. Why does the Preamble start with the words “We the people…”?
This indicates that it includes every citizen of the United States of America.
3. What does “secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity” mean?
Protect our freedom for ourselves and future generations.
4. What does the word *welfare* mean?
good fortune, health, happiness, etc.
5. What does “establish justice” mean?
protect our rights

# Articles of Confederation

1. Why are the Articles of Confederation not in the Constitution today?
The Articles of Confederation were not successful.
2. IDENTIFY and DESCRIBE at least 3 reasons why the articles failed.
1. The country did not have money.

2. No one was agreeing on anything.

3. There was not a stable military to protect our country.
7 Principles of the Constitution

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| **Principle** | **Definition** | **Brief Example** |
| **Popular Sovereignty** | A government in which the people rule | When your parents vote for mayor, government, and President |
| **Limited Government** | EVERYONE has to follow the same laws, even members of the government | If a Senator commits a crime he will have a trial like everyone else |
| **Separation of Power** | Divides the roles of government into 3 branches. No ONE branch has ALL the power. | When legislative passes laws |
| **Check and Balances** | EACH branch of government can check the other branches | Federal judges are nominates by the President, but have to be approved by Congress. |
| **Federalism** | A system of government in which powers are SHARED by the state and national government | States have powers to make individual decisions |
| **Republicanism** | People vote for people to represent their views | Vote on people who share similar beliefs and allow them to vote |
| **Individual Rights** | Personal rights and privileges that people are born with and cannot be taken away | The Bill of Rights, the first Ten Amendments  |