Chapter 6 A New Nation

Lesson 1 Articles of Confederation

Articles of Confederation – original plan of gov’t in U.S.

 -had a legislative branch

 -passed laws

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation:

1. No executive branch – carry out laws

2. No judicial branch – decide what laws mean

3. Gov’t couldn’t collect taxes

 -nation was in debt (no money) after Revolutionary War

States taxed property

 -sent people to prison if they couldn’t pay

 -Daniel Shays led Shays’ Rebellion because of this

Ordinance = law

Northwest Ordinance of 1787 described how lands could become states

Lesson 2 Creating the Constitution

The Constitutional Convention

Goal – to form a stronger gov’t by revising the Articles of Confederation

delegates – representatives

constitution – written plan for gov’t

Virginia Plan

1. 3 branches

2. Representation based on state population

3. Larger states have more power

The Great Compromise

-Congress made up of two parts

 1. Senate

 2. House of Representatives

Three-Fifths Compromise

-Three out of every five enslaved people would count toward population

Preamble – introduction

Articles of Confederation had only one branch of gov’t

 -New gov’t had three branches so they could limit the power of any one group

Separation of powers – each branch would balance the power of others

Checks and balances – each branch could limit the powers of others

1. Judicial branch can stop unconstitutional laws

2. Executive branch can veto laws passed by Congress

3. Legislative branch can reject veto

Only national gov’t can print money and make laws about trade

Lesson 3 The Bill of Rights

Federalists – people who supported the Constitution

Anti-Federalists – people who did not support the Constitution

 -supported the Articles of Confederation

 -wanted a Bill of Rights – a statement to protect citizens’ basic rights

 1. freedom of speech

 2. freedom of religion

 3. trial by jury

“Without a Bill of Rights, the government might take advantage of citizens.”

 -Anti-Federalist

“Those gentlemen, who will be elected senators, will fix themselves in the federal town, and become citizens of that town more than of your state.”

 -Supporter of the Articles of Confederation

“The powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

 -An amendment which was a victory for Anti-Federalists

Some states were hesitant to ratify the Constitution because of a lack of Bill of Rights.

Amendments = addition

Due process – protects citizens’ right to fair treatment through the judicial system

Lesson 4 Key Concepts of the Constitution

Popular sovereignty – the idea that power comes from the people

Democracy – a gov’t in which citizens have the power to make political decisions

Civic responsibilities – duties related to being a good citizen

1. staying informed about events

2. voting

Rule of law – protects citizens from a gov’ts misuse of power

Judicial review – Supreme Court reviews laws and judges whether they follow the Constitution

 -can overturn a law that conflicts

The U.S. military provides for the nation’s common defense.

The Navy and Coast Guard patrol the seas and coastline.

Social Security – program that gives financial benefits to people who have reached retirement age.

 -example of promoting the general welfare

At first, only free white men who owned property could vote.

 -Black men were allowed to vote (15th amendment)

 -Women were allowed to vote (19th amendment)

The Constitution says all men are created equal, so everyone should have an equal right to vote.