PANGEA:
(plate tectonics) A hypothetical continent including all the landmass of the earth prior to the Triassic period when all the land was connected as one.

Continental drift

Beginnings of a Nation

Our Colonial Heritage

- People first came to North America from Asia via the Bering Land Bridge.
- They spread throughout North & South America creating societies.
- Society = groups that share a set of common values & traditions.
- Geography (region) & climate had great impact on their survival.
  - Geography = The study of people and places.
  - Continents = A large area of land with distinct geographic borders such as mountains and oceans.
  - Region = An area that share common features such as: history, climate, tradition, plant/animal life, economy, language, government or religion.
  - Ex: The southwestern region of the United States is known as tornado alley.
  - OR The only region the polar bear is known to inhabit is the Arctic Region.
- Climate = The general or average weather conditions of a certain region, including temperature, rainfall, and wind.
- Depending upon geography & climate, some groups had to move around to survive rather than settle the lands & farm.
- Some settled as far south as modern-day Mexico & Peru.
- The natives who settled there are called the Aztec’s & the Inca’s.
Contact & Colonies:
- America isolated by Pacific & Atlantic Oceans
- European explorers needed new trade routes to Asian spice & silk trade
- Columbus lands in Bahamas in the process of his expedition (1492)
- Other Europeans followed to explore the "Americas" (France, The Netherlands, Sweden & England)
- Spanish conquistadores conquered the Aztec & the Inca's.

The English Colonies:
- England founded thirteen colonies
- Thirteen colonies divided into 3 regions: Southern Colonies, New England Colonies, Middle Colonies
- First colony was Jamestown, Virginia - settlers came seeking wealth
- Others came seeking religious freedoms & settled in Maryland (Pilgrims & English Catholics)

The Southern Colonies:
- Southern States = Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina
- All colonies depended upon Native American Indians to survive (climate, land, etc.)
- Economy = tobacco & cotton (farmed on land called "plantations")
- Indentured servants/slaves worked plantations (slave codes to control them)

New England Colonies:
- New England States = Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island
- Founders = Puritans, Pilgrims
- Economy = shipping, fishing, farming, manufacturing
- Valued education for their children
- Politics & religion closely connected - only church MEMBERS allowed to vote on local issues or to hold office.
The Middle Colonies

- States = New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware
- Economy = combined with that of Southern & New England colonies: farms & trade crops were mainly: wheat, barley, oats
- Labor = indentured servants, or slaves

Creating A Nation

Evolution in colonists

- Christian movement - Great Awakening
  - 1730's - 1740's
  - spiritual equality
  - social freedoms
- 1754 - 1763
  - French & Indian War (British vs. French)
  - Britain won war, encouraged colonists to settle further West.

Road to War

Colonists settle into new life and have hopes for a bright future in the New America's.

When suddenly...
Parliament passes new taxation without colonists having representation.
Colonists revolt... Boston Tea Party
Boycott British goods
King responds... fired on civilians, occupied/closed harbors

The American Revolution

- First Continental Congress meets to prepare for war.
- Colonists gather weapons at Lexington & Concord, Massachusetts.
- British find out & try to attack. Minutemen fight back - 1st battle of the Revolutionary War.

War for Independence Begins!!!
Second Continental Congress meets - George Washington in charge of Continental Army!

(Go to Section 1: The Revolution Begins)

The Revolution Begins.pdf
• Thomas Paine, Common Sense, argued for independence from England.
• July 4, 1776, the people agree & DECLARE the INDEPENDENCE!!! does not mean they got it!
• King was furious!!!
• Patriots were not trained...had to get ready for the King's response (which would be hundreds of troops!), at least the Patriots knew the "lay of the land".
• Few battles were won, until Battle of Saratoga.
• This win convinced France & Spain to join Patriots against their enemy. England!
• Many battles & cold weather hindered colonists efforts, but finally, a big victory @ Yorktown, 1781, forced Great Britain to recognize the colonists independence.

Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, United States of America was free!!!

(Click to: Section 2 - Declaring Independence)

Declaring Independence.pdf

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Britain Defeated...now what?

*Independently define what you understand as government.*
*Croopatively share your definitions and create one definition for your group - write to share on index card.*
*Copy definition into notebook.*

**Government:**
1. the group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, etc.
2. a particular system used for controlling a country, state, etc.
3. the process or manner of controlling a country, state, etc.

What word "jumps" out at you in each definition? Circle the word and discuss why you chose this word.

**Anarchy:**
1. absence of government
2. a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority
3. a situation of confusion and wild behavior in which the people in a country, group, organization, etc., are not controlled by rules or laws

**Essential Question:**
How can people be governed without being "ruled"? (real conundrum for the Founding Fathers)

Let's play a role-playing game...describe to your table team what "A day in your life" would look, feel, smell, etc. like if you did not have to follow any rules...SHARE!!!

Now let's watch a video of someone who did something similar to what you just fantasied.


What was "wrong" with this? Why is that so wrong? Who has ever been in a situation like this?

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Define all types of major governments...

Different Forms of Government.docx

video on all types:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdS6fyUIklI


which one did we choose and why?
They used various forms as models:

- Rulers are subject to social contract.
- Separation of government powers
- Town meetings, Mayflower Compact, & principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence (Declaration of Rights)

Second Continental Congress drafted the 1st Constitution:

This created a Congress (Legislative Branch) with limited powers. There was no Executive or Judicial Branch!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFIkxQsW3ZI

February 24, 2015

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation:

- Each state only had one vote in Congress, regardless of size.
- Congress had not have the power to tax.
- Congress did not have the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.
- There was no executive branch to enforce any acts passed by Congress.
- There was no national court system
- Amendments to the Articles of Confederation required a unanimous vote.
- Laws required a 9/13 majority to pass in Congress.
- Under the Articles of Confederation, states often argued amongst themselves.
- They also refused to financially support the national government.
- The national government was powerless to enforce any acts it did pass. Some states began making agreements with foreign governments.
- Most had their own military.
- Each state printed its own money. There was no stable economy.

In 1786, Shays' Rebellion occurred in western Massachusetts as a protest to rising debt and economic chaos. However, the national government was unable to gather a combined military force amongst the states to help put down the rebellion.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q77iwGlyXF4

December 22, 2015

Constitutional Convention

1787 - Articles of Confederation drafted = 1st national constitution

No executive branch, or judicial system... (not going to work!!!)

Settlers continued to move West... into Indian Territory... not our land...

BUT Congress created Northwest Ordinance which allowed new territories to join the union as states (even though not part of the original 13 colonies)

After any war, the country who fought has debts to repay... The War for Independence was no different

...however, the colonists could not repay because England and Spain cut off any business/trade which would make people money

Congress imposed taxes... just like King George!!!... people did NOT like this!!!

They rebelled again = Shays Rebellion (farmer's rebellion). Congress realized a new Constitution was needed...
Constitutional Convention

Met to revise the Articles of Confederation...ended up writing a whole new document.

Founding fathers argued many points & ended up with what is now called:

The Great Compromise

- Created a two-house Congress which would protect large & small states' rights:
  - **Senate**: (2 reps. per state)
  - **House of Representatives**: (reps. based upon state population [census])

  This style of government is called: **federalism**

- Federalism = powers divided between state & federal (national) government

State government keep local laws (pumping gas)

Federal (national) government divided among three branches:

  - **Legislative**
  - **Executive**
  - **Judicial**

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This system is known as checks & balances

No one branch has more power than the next!

(See branches of government for more)

Learn preamble to Constitution

What is the difference between the Declaration of Independence & the Constitution?

Hey, do you know about the U.S.A.?

Do you know about the government?

Can you tell me about the Constitution?

Hey, learn about the U.S.A.

In 1787 I'm told

Our founding fathers did agree

To write a list of principles

That's known the world around.

The U.S.A. was just starting out

A whole brand new country.

And so our people spelled it out

They wanted a land of liberty.

And the preamble goes like this:

We the people,

In order to form a more perfect union,

Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility,

Provide for the common defense,

Promote the general welfare and

Secure the blessings of liberty

To ourselves and our posterity

Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

For the United States of America