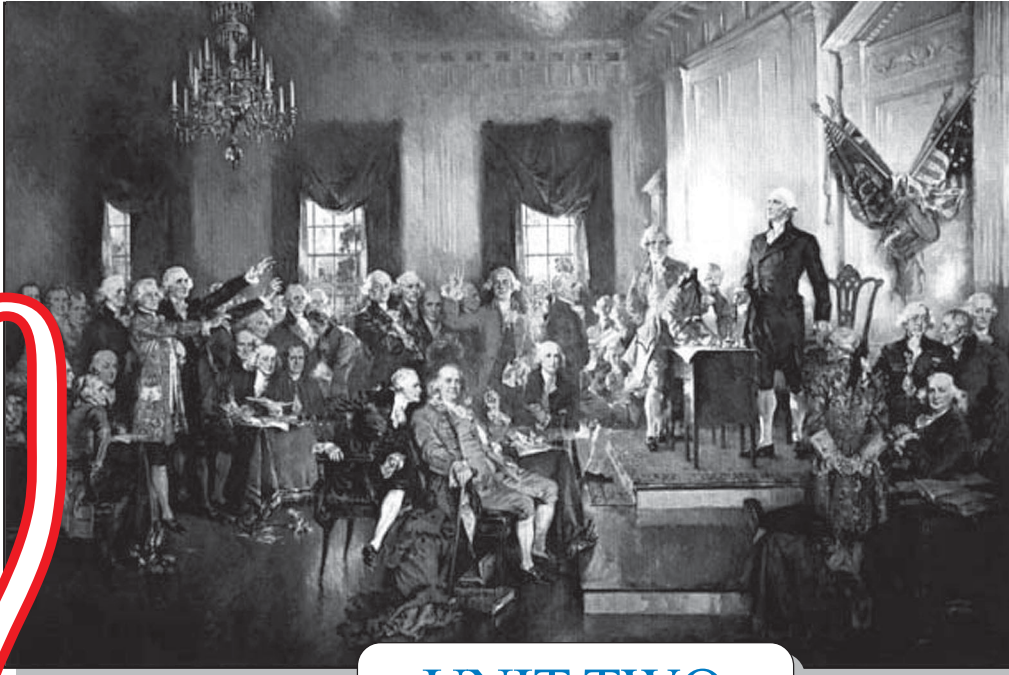


**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM
BASED ON MSDE STANDARDS AND GOALS**

Eighth Grade Social Studies



UNIT TWO

Creating a National Political System and Culture

1783–1815

THIS UNIT IS TAUGHT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.



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Introduction

The Unit 8.2 guide provides the most essential information needed for instruction - Content Standards, MCPS Focus Statements, and an instructional sequence. This guide is aligned with the MSDE indicators and prepares students for success on the Government High School Assessment (HSA). It lays a foundation for student understanding of key principles of government. These principles are an integral part of the National, State, and Local Government course students in MCPS take in tenth grade and a key component of the Government HSA exam.

Begin reading through the guide by first looking at the *Enduring Understanding* and *Essential Questions* below. These two items encapsulate the whole idea or **WHY** of the unit. Why, as in “Why study this?” For Unit Two you will be dealing with one of the most essential ideas in American history - that a diverse people can be bound into one culture by shared beliefs in a democratic political system. This idea is crucial for students to understand later U.S. history and is essential to the survival of democracy today.

As you read through the guide, you will see that the unit sequentially builds ideas expressed in the Enduring Understanding. Next review the **WHAT**- the MSDE Content Standards for the unit. These standards represent what MSDE wants students to be able to know and do. MCPS has broken the Content Standards down into more discrete Content Focus Statements found on the front page of each Lesson Sequence. Use the Focus Statements for each session as a basis for your daily mastery objectives. What you do in the classroom is the **HOW**.

Why?

Enduring Understanding

- Culture is the shared system of beliefs, values, and practices of a society. The culture of a nation is determined by its political, economic, social, and geographic systems. The American political system has played a key role in shaping its national culture.
- The shared values of the American political system have formed a cohesive national identity in an historically pluralistic society. Americans have generally recognized the benefits of citizen rights and responsibilities, rule of law, separation of church and state, equal opportunity, representative government, limited government, freedom and independence, and the opportunity of a market economy.
- The Constitution was written to provide a structure for government that reflected democratic values and established a stable, prosperous nation. However, compromises based on beliefs of the time restricted access to the promises of the Constitution for most Americans. The amendment process was included to reflect changing attitudes, beliefs, and needs of the growing republic.
- Events in the early years of the nation and conflicts with foreign powers helped deepen American commitment to its founding values and shape a shared national identity.
- Two hundred years later, challenges continue to shape American culture as the values and beliefs of the past are applied to new realities today.

Possible Essential Questions

1. What is American culture?
2. What values are shared among most Americans?
3. How does a national political culture develop?
4. How does a political system reveal a nation’s values?
5. What influences and changes a national culture?

What?

MSDE Content Standards

The student will be able to:

U.S. History

1. Analyze the purposes and debates of the Constitutional Convention, and the ratification of the United States Constitution, and the roles of key leaders in the writing and ratification of the United States Constitution.
2. Describe the effects of the presidencies of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson on the political system during their tenures.
3. Explain why the United States adopted a policy of neutrality prior to the War of 1812.
4. Explain how the continuing conflict between Great Britain and France influenced the domestic and foreign policy of the United States.

Economics

1. Describe the difficulties related to currency, debt, and trade, caused by the Articles of Confederation.
2. Explain how the underlying principles of the Constitution provided for the regulation of trade, imposition of taxes, and creation of a monetary system.

Political Systems

1. Explain the significance of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact to the underlying principles of the United States Constitution.
2. Explain the rights of individuals as expressed in the... United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
3. Describe how the United States Constitution provides for separation of powers, checks and balances, and distributes powers to the national and state governments.
4. Explain the impact of precedence in the Office of the President such as the establishment of a cabinet and foreign policy.
5. Describe historical events in the United States that resulted in Constitutional amendments.
6. Explain how the concept of judicial review was established.
7. Explain how the supremacy of the national government was defined by events and early decisions of the Supreme Court, such as the Whiskey Rebellion, *Marbury v. Madison*, and *McCulloch v. Maryland*.
8. Explain how various groups provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process and ways in which individuals can advance or impede political decisions.
9. Analyze the relationship among maintaining order under rule of law, protecting individual rights, and providing for the common good.

Peoples of the Nations and World

1. Analyze characteristics that are used to organize people into cultures.
2. Describe how equality of opportunity enables individuals and groups to contribute to culture.
3. Describe how the War of 1812 created a spirit of nationalism among the people of the United States.

How?

Unit 8.2 *Creating a National Political System and Culture* Instructional Flow

Pre-assessment

What do students know about American culture? Students demonstrate understanding of how beliefs and values can be seen by identifying and explaining symbols of American culture. Students also show what they know about principles and structures of the American political system.

Lesson Sequence One: What is American Culture? (1 1/2 weeks)

America's pluralistic society is bound by a shared culture based on eight political beliefs and values. Students learn:

- shared characteristics of American culture: rights and responsibilities, rule of law, separation of church and state, equal opportunity, representative government, limited government, freedom and independence, and support for a market economy.
- foundational concepts of key historical documents: Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, State Constitutions.

Key Assessments: Political Values Quick Quiz (p. 28)
Pen Pal Letter (p. 37)

Lesson Sequence Two: A Democratic Political System Develops (2 1/2 weeks)

The American Constitution was the result of debates and compromises that created a federal system of government. Students learn:

- failures of the Articles of Confederation to enforce laws, collect taxes, settle disputes as witnessed in Shays' Rebellion.
- the process, arguments, and compromises of the Constitutional Convention.
- how the Constitution established a limited, representative, and federal system of government.
- arguments for ratification and adoption of the Bill of Rights.

Key Assessments: Extended Constructed Response: Great Compromise (p. 88)
Constitutional Quiz (pp. 98-99)

Lesson Sequence Three: Inside Forces Shape the Political System (2 weeks)

The emerging national political system and culture were shaped by events and ideas that challenged the early presidencies. Students learn:

- inside forces that challenged the nation included establishment of a national bank, the Whiskey Rebellion, and the Alien and Sedition Acts.
- the development of political parties, freedom of the press, and the election of 1800.
- the establishment of judicial review and supremacy of national over state laws - Marbury and McCulloch.

Key Assessment: Extended Constructed Response: Inside Forces (p. 127)

Lesson Sequence Four: Outside Forces Shape National Culture (1 1/2 weeks)

Conflicts with European powers challenged the new nation but resulted in a stronger national identity for Americans. Students learn:

- the role of the President in foreign policy.
- how the U.S. used treaties and embargoes to fight for neutrality between Britain and France.
- causes and effects of the War of 1812, resulting in national unity.
- ongoing debate over limiting of individual rights for reasons of national security.

Key Assessment: Extended Constructed Response: Outside Forces (p. 146)

An item bank and test specifications will be provided for each department to develop a first semester exam targeted to the Enduring Understanding, Indicators, and Focus Statements for Unit 8.1 and Unit 8.2.