



# Colonial Influences

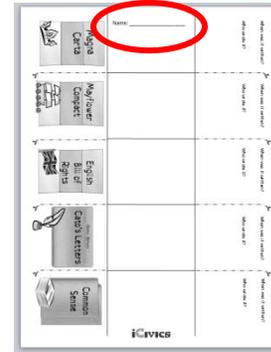
Where did America get its ideas about  
government?

# What's the big idea?

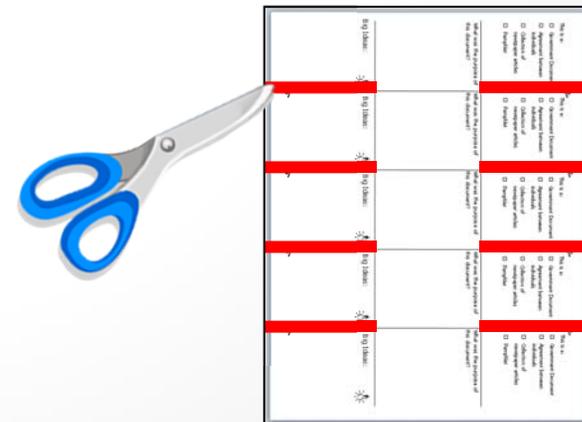
- Rule of Law
  - All people must follow the laws, and the laws should be enforced fairly.
- Self Government
  - People can make decisions on how their government should work.
- Due Process
  - People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing laws and need to treat all people in the same way.
- Limited Government
  - A government that has been limited in power by a constitution, or written agreement.
- Rights
  - A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions.
-

# Cut-and Fold Instructions

1. Put your name on the paper.



2. Flip the page over to see the side with the check list.
3. Carefully cut along the dashed lines only.

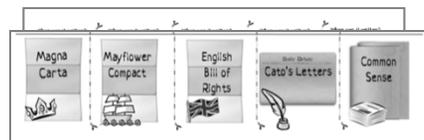


# Cut-and Fold Instructions

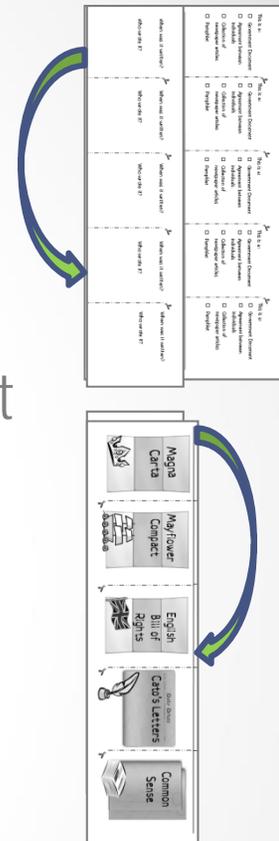
4. Fold the tabs towards the middle on the left side on the solid line.

5. Fold the tabs towards the middle on the right side on the solid line.

6. Turn the paper so you see a row of images.



7. Use the reading and class discussion to complete all the fields in this activity.



# Magna Carta

The Magna Carta was a government document that limited the power of the king of England and protected the rights of the nobility. It was written by the English nobility in 1215.



## Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Rule of Law
- Due Process

# Mayflower Compact

The Mayflower Compact was an agreement between individuals that created a government that would provide order and protect the rights of the colonists. It was written by a group of English Puritans as they traveled to Massachusetts in 1620.

## Big Ideas:

- Self Government
- Rule of Law



# English Bill of Rights

The English Bill of Rights was a government document that expanded the powers of the English Parliament and expanded the rights of the people, as well as further limited the rights of the king. It was written by the members of the English Parliament in 1689.

## Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Due Process
- Rule of Law



# Cato's Letters

Cato's Letters were made up of a collection of newspaper articles published to convince people to support the freedom of expression and to fight against the heavy handed rule of the British government. They were written by two anonymous English journalists in the 1720's.

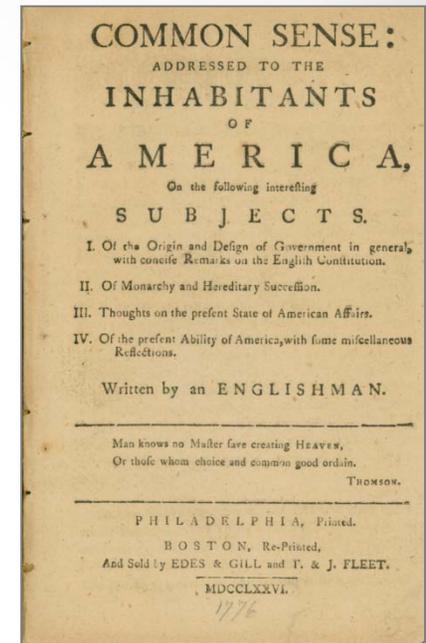
## Big Ideas:

- Rights
- Rule of Law



# Common Sense

Common Sense was a pamphlet written to convince the American colonists to support becoming independent from England. It was written by a colonial journalist and circulated in 1776.



## Big Ideas:

- Self Government
- Rights

# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

The movers and shakers in the colonial period spent a lot of time thinking about these big ideas, and how to put them into practice.

Give it a try yourself by matching each aspect of the U.S. Constitution to the big ideas that you just learned about.



# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

A

“This Constitution and the laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme law of the land.” All government officials “shall be bound by an oath to support this constitution.”

U.S. Constitution, Article VI

**Self– Government:**  
popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

**Rule of Law:** the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

A

**Due Process:** People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and to treat all people in the same way.

**Rights:** A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

**Limited Government:** the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

**B**

The first ten amendments in the Bill of Rights guarantees certain rights and freedoms that include:

- Freedom of speech, the press, and religion
- Right to petition the government and to bear arms
- Prohibition of excessive bail or fines, or cruel and unusual punishments for crimes

**Self– Government:**  
popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

**Rule of Law:** the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

**Due Process:** People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and to treat all people in the same way.

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**B**

**Limited Government:** the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

C

The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government. Each branch is given the power to check, or limit the power of the other two. The system of checks and balances keeps any one branch from getting too powerful.

**Self– Government:** popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

**Rule of Law:** the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

**Due Process:** People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and to treat all people in the same way.

**Rights:** A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

**Limited Government:** the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

C

# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

D

"No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"

U.S. Constitution, 5th Amendment

**Self– Government:**  
popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

**Rule of Law:** the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

**Due Process:** People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and to treat all people in the same way.

**Rights:** A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions

D

**Limited Government:** the power of government is limited by the Constitution, and each branch is limited in what it can do

# From Big Ideas to the Constitution

E

"WE THE PEOPLE of the United States...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

**Self- Government:** popular or representative system where the people create and run their own government

E

**Rule of Law:** the idea that all people must follow the laws, and that the laws are enforced fairly

**Due Process:** People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing the laws and to treat all people in the same way.

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