



UNIT 6 VOCABULARY LIST

adopt	(verb) To choose to take for one's own, to follow, or to use
amend	(verb) To revise or change
amendment	(noun) An addition to an existing document; in the U.S. Constitution, the amendments come after the original document
article	(noun) A part or piece of something
Articles of Confederation	(noun) The constitution establishing the first government of the United States that had weaknesses, which led to its failure; it was in place from 1781 to 1789
bicameral	(adjective) A legislature that has two parts; the U.S. Congress is bicameral because it has the House of Representatives and the Senate
bill of rights	(noun) A document that contains a list of freedoms to protect; in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments
Bill of Rights	(noun) The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution that list the freedoms of the people and states; the Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791
branch of government	(noun) A section of government with its own purpose; the U.S. government has three sections of the government with different responsibilities that support each other to create, examine, and enforce laws
central government	(noun) The center or federal government of a group of states; the U.S. central government is in Washington, D.C.
check	(verb) In government, when one part of the government legally stops another part from taking its desired actions



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checks and balances	(noun) The idea where separate parts of the government are given powers to stop each other's actions and are made to share power
civic virtue	(noun) Actions citizens do and qualities citizens have that benefit their community
common defense	(noun) A phrase in the preamble of the Constitution; protection for the community
common good	(noun) A phrase in the preamble of the Constitution; what is best for the community
compromise	(verb) The process of coming to a solution that works for everyone
consensus	(noun) When a group of people come to agreement about an issue
consent	(verb) To agree
constitution	(noun) A document laying out the rules for how a government will work
Constitution	(noun) The document that lays out the framework for how the federal government works; written in 1787 and ratified in 1789
constitutional convention	(noun) A gathering of representatives whose purpose is to write a constitution or revise an existing constitution
delegate	(noun) A representative who speaks for their people or organization
democracy	(noun) A government ruled by majority vote of the people
dictator	(noun) The ruler of a nation or people who has absolute power
domestic	(adjective) In our country or at home



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elected	(adjective) Describing when someone has been chosen for a position through the vote of the people
election	(noun) When people vote for a person for office or other position
executive	(adjective) Describing the person or branch of government who puts plans and laws into effect
executive branch	(noun) The section of government that puts plans and laws into effect
federal	(adjective) The central government of a group of states; the U.S. federal government is in Washington, D.C.
federalism	(adjective) When local towns, states, and the federal government share power together
foundational principle	(noun) An idea on which something stands; one foundational principle of the United States is the rule of law
Founding Fathers	(noun) The people who led the colonies in the American Revolution, then designed and set up the government of the United States; also called the framers
framers	(noun) The people who led the colonies in the American Revolution, then designed and set up the government of the United States; also called the Founding Fathers
fundamental	(adjective) Describing something that is central in importance
government	(noun) A group of people that have the power to make and carry out laws for a community
infringe	(verb) To actively break a law or agreement
insure	(verb) To protect



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judicial	(adjective) Describing the people or branch of government that decides if laws are fair
judicial branch	(noun) The section of government that decides if laws are fair
justice	(noun) Fairness for everyone
legislative	(adjective) Describing the people or branch of government that makes laws
legislative branch	(noun) The section of government that makes laws
legislature	(noun) A group of people chosen or elected to make the laws for a colony or state
liberty	(noun) The freedom to exercise your rights in a community
limited government	(noun) When the power of the people who rule a community is controlled so that no person or group gets too much power
majority	(noun) More than half of a group
minority	(noun) Less than half of a group
more perfect union	(noun) A phrase in the preamble of the Constitution; a joining of the states in the best way possible
necessary and proper clause	(noun) A phrase in the United States Constitution that says that the central government can make all laws it thinks are necessary and good in order to run the nation
ordain	(verb) To declare



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persuade	(verb) To cause something to happen through asking, giving reasons, or arguing
posterity	(noun) Future generations
preamble	(noun) Introduction
promote	(verb) To help
proportional representation	(noun) Representation in government based on the population; a larger population has more representation than a small population
ratification	(noun) The action of making something legal by signing or giving permission
ratify	(verb) To make legal by signing or giving permission
representative democracy	(noun) When a group of people select someone to communicate their views and make laws for them
right	(noun) 1 That which is morally correct 2 Something a person should legally or morally be able to do or get to have
rule of law	(noun) The idea that everyone in a community agrees to a set of written rules and then everyone follows the same rules
secede	(verb) To separate from a political organization, like from a state or country
social contract	(noun) An agreement between people and their government to give up some rights in exchange for security and law and order



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society	(noun) What comes when people live together in a community
supremacy clause	(noun) A phrase in the United States Constitution that says that the Constitution and any law made in the central government is more powerful than state laws
tranquility	(adjective) Peacefulness
welfare	(noun) Safety and happiness