

Lesson 6: An “Apple of Gold” in a “Picture of Silver”: The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

Government around the World

Guiding Questions

- What is the relationship between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?
- How do these Founding documents reflect common republican principles?

- I can compare and contrast constitutional structures.
- I can analyze how republican principles are used in other constitutional structures.

Directions: Select one country in addition to the United States for which to research the answers to the following questions using the resources that follow.

	United States of America	Other country:
What form of government exists in this country?	_____	_____
Does the government have a written constitution?	_____	_____
Who wrote this constitution?	_____	_____
Does the constitution include a bill of rights?	_____	_____
Does the constitution limit the power of government?	_____	_____
Does the constitution protect individual rights?	_____	_____
Does the constitution separate the powers of government?	_____	_____

Does the constitution guarantee popular sovereignty?

Does the constitution describe an amendment process?

Does the constitution permit one part of government to check or balance another?

Does the constitution create a federal system?

Does the constitution create a republican government?

Critical Thinking Questions

1. How does the promise of a nation's constitution compare to its reality?
2. Are rights always protected just because a country has a bill of rights? If not, what else is needed to protect rights?

Suggested Countries to Research

Africa

Morocco
South Africa
Sudan
Zimbabwe

Asia/Asia Minor

China
Japan
North Korea
Saudi Arabia

Australia

Europe

France
Germany
United Kingdom

North America

Canada
Cuba
Mexico

South America

Argentina
Chile
Venezuela

Resources

International Constitutional Law
<https://www.servat.unibe.ch/icl/>

Freedom House
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/>