**Unit 3 Vocab Definitions**

1. **Articles of Confederation**- United States first plan of government after the American Revolution that favored a weak central government.
2. **Land Ordinance of 1785**- Ordinance that surveyed and planned out the land in the west, dividing it into plots to be sold.
3. **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**- Ordinance that set procedures for territories to become official states.
4. **Daniel Shay’s Rebellion**- Uprising of Massachusetts farmers over increased state taxes in 1787 which showed the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
5. **United States Constitution**- Supreme law of the land, the written form of government we still use today.
6. **Constitutional Convention**- Meeting in 1787 to create the written form of government we still use today.
7. **Central Government**- Form of government where the greatest power resides in the national government.
8. **State Government**- A form of government where states have the power and flexibility to govern their citizens as they deem necessary.
9. **Federalism**- Mode of government where power is shared between the national government and state governments.
10. **New Jersey Plan**- Small states plan in which legislature is based on equal representatives per state.
11. **Virginia Plan**- Large states plan in which legislature is based on state population.
12. **Great Compromise**- Agreement to have a two-house legislature, one based on state population and one based on equal representation.
13. **3/5 Compromise**- Agreement to count only a certain amount of a state’s slave population for representation purposes.
14. **Baron Charles de Montesquieu**- French philosopher who developed the separation of powers theory which was used in the U.S. Constitution.
15. **Separation of Powers**- Political theory developed by Montesquieu in which there are three distinct branches of government.
16. **Legislative Branch**- An arm of the federal government that is responsible for creating new laws and includes Congress.
17. **Executive Branch**- An arm of the federal government who is responsible for the enforcing of laws and includes the Office of President.
18. **Judicial Branch**- An arm of the federal government that is responsible for the interpretation of the laws passed and includes the Supreme Court**.**
19. **Checks and Balances**- System used to keep one branch of government from overpowering the other two branches.
20. **Anti-Federalists**- Those who would not ratify the Constitution without the Bill of Rights and were in favor of strong state governments.
21. **Federalists**- Those who wanted to ratify the Constitution immediately and were in favor of a strong central government.
22. **Ratification**- To formally approve or adopt as law.
23. **Federalist Papers**- A series of essays written by supporters of the Constitution that encouraged ratification of the document.
24. **Alexander Hamilton**- An ardent Federalist who supported the Constitution, a stronger central government, he wrote most of the Federalist Papers
25. **James Madison**- Known as the “Father of the Constitution”, he played an essential role in the drafting and ratification of the Constitution.
26. **Bill of Rights**- The first ten amendments to the Constitution.
27. **Amendment**- A formal change to the U.S. Constitution.