

Matching Activity: The Origins of American Government

___1) A major principle of democracy, this idea states that the law applies to government officials as much as to ordinary citizens and public officials must make decisions based on the law not on personal opinions or wishes.

___2) Document developed by Thomas Jefferson while he was governor of Virginia in 1786 that states government cannot force a person to believe in any specific religious faith. It acts as the basis for religious freedoms mentioned in the First Amendment to the Constitution .

___3) Document in which Queen Mary II and King William III recognized certain basic rights such as the right of British subjects to petition the monarch to answer their grievances and the right of British subjects to be protected from excessive bail and from cruel and unusual punishment.

___4) A source of American law based on custom, tradition, and judges' decisions rather than on specific laws and statutes.

___5) A series of 85 essays written by Hamilton, Madison, and John Jay defending the Constitution. It was used to persuade New Yorkers to ratify the Constitution.

___6) The agreement in which New England settlers established their own government in 1620. The signers agreed to live under a government that would make "just and equal laws... for the good of the colony."

___7) A proposal of government designed by William Patterson, which favored a unicameral legislature and a plural executive branch.

___8) Developed by James Madison, proposed a bicameral legislature in which the people would be represented in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

___9) This document was one of the earliest examples of constitutional government. It was the English nobles' attempt to restrict King John's power, supporting trial by jury and fighting taxation without consent of the governed.

___10) George Mason developed this document, which was passed by the Virginia General Assembly in June of

A) Virginia Declaration of Rights

B) Virginia Plan

C) The English Bill of Rights

D) Common Law

E) Mayflower Compact

F) The Declaration of Independence

G) Anti-Federalists

H) The Magna Carta

I) The Great Compromise

J) The Articles of Confederation

K) *The Federalist Papers*

L) New Jersey Plan

M) The First Virginia Charter

N) Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom

O) Rule by law

(Repeated from other side)

A) Virginia Declaration of Rights

was passed by the Virginia General Assembly in June of 1776. As a statement of the basic rights of mankind, Jefferson used this document to support separation from Great Britain in a later declaration of independence.

___11) This document's preamble is an explanation of why it was written. After a statement of the natural rights of mankind, a detailed list of grievances against King George III follows. These were intended to show exactly how the British government had violated basic rights that the colonists possessed. The final part explains the colonists' efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement, and the Americans resolve to be free.

___12) This group opposed the new federal system of government represented by the Constitution, led by Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock. They demanded a bill of rights be added to the new constitution.

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- O) Rule by law

___13) King James I issued this document in 1606 to the Virginia Company, allowing them the right to develop a colony on the land now called Virginia

___14) It was a proposal that involved three separate branches of government, legislative, executive, judicial. Also with a bicameral, national legislature would have authority to cancel conflicting state laws and make the states comply with national laws (favoring national laws). It became the basis for the US Constitution and the structure of the American Congress.

___15) This document formed a “firm league of friendship” between the former thirteen British colonies. Each state was sovereign in that they were more powerful than the main government, and the states worked together only for the purposes of defense and foreign affairs. Ratified in 1781, it made up America’s first constitution until 1788.

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