## GOVERNMENT IN COLONIAL AMERICA

### LESSON 1

**English Bill of Rights and English Law**

**Colonial Governments**
- Written constitutions
- Colonial legislatures

**Bicameral legislature**
- Representation in House of Representatives based on state population
- Equal representation in Senate, with two members from each state

### LESSON 2

**UNITING FOR INDEPENDENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1754–1763</td>
<td>French and Indian War creates huge debts for Britain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.22.1765</td>
<td>Britain passes Stamp Act to raise revenue to pay off war debt; colonists object.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1767</td>
<td>Britain passes Townshend Acts to raise further revenue; colonial resentment increases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1774</td>
<td>Britain passes series of Coercive Acts.</td>
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<td>9.05.1774</td>
<td>Revolutionary War begins.</td>
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<td>4.19.1775</td>
<td>First Continental Congress convened in reaction to harsh British policies.</td>
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<td>5.10.1775</td>
<td>Second Continental Congress assumes power of central government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.4.1776</td>
<td>Declaration of Independence</td>
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### LESSON 3

**THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION**

- Created a weak national government
- Congress cannot tax or regulate interstate commerce.
- No common currency
- Each state gets one vote in Congress, no matter its size.
- No national executive or judicial branch

### LESSON 4

**CREATING THE CONSTITUTION**

#### VIRGINIA PLAN
- Bicameral legislature
- Number of legislators varies according to state population

#### NEW JERSEY PLAN
- Unicameral legislature
- Each state gets one vote regardless of population.

**CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE**
- Bicameral legislature
- Representation in House of Representatives based on state population
- Equal representation in Senate, with two members from each state