

3rd Quarter Vocabulary:

Magna Carta (1215): a charter of liberties agreed to by King John of England, it made the king obey the same laws as citizens.

English Bill of Rights (1689): a shift of political power from the British monarchy to Parliament.

Constitution: a set of basic principles that determines the powers and duties of a government.

Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786): a document that gave people in Virginia freedom of worship and prohibited tax money from being used to fund churches.

Suffrage: voting rights.

Declaration of Independence (1776): the document written to declare the colonies free from British rule.

Articles of Confederation (1777): the document that created the first central government for the United States; was replaced by the Constitution in 1789.

Ratification: an official approval.

Land Ordinance of 1785: legislation passed by Congress authorizing surveys and the division of public lands in the western region of the country.

Northwest Ordinance of 1787: legislation passed by Congress to establish a political structure for the Northwest Territory and create a system for the admission of new states.

Tariff: a tax on imports or exports.

Interstate commerce: trade between two or more states.

Shays's Rebellion (1786-1787): an uprising of Massachusetts's farmers, led by Daniel Shays, to protest high taxes, heavy debt, and farm foreclosures.

Constitutional Convention (1787): a meeting held in Philadelphia at which delegates from the states wrote the Constitution.

Virginia Plan (1787): the plan for government proposed at the Constitutional Convention in which the national government would have supreme power and a legislative branch would have two houses with representation determined by state population.

New Jersey Plan: a proposal to create a unicameral legislature with equal representation of states rather than representation by population; rejected at the Constitutional Convention.

Great Compromise (1787): an agreement worked out at the Constitutional Convention establishing that a state's population would determine representation in the lower house of the legislature, while each state would have equal representation in the upper house of the legislature.

Three-Fifths Compromise (1787): an agreement worked out at the Constitutional Convention stating that only three-fifths of the slaves in a state would count when determining its population for representation in the lower house of Congress.

Popular Sovereignty: the idea that political authority belongs to the people.

Federalism: U.S. system of government in which power is distributed between a central government and individual states.

Executive Branch: nonlegislative directives issued by the U.S. president in certain circumstances; executive orders have the force of congressional law.

Judicial Branch: the division of the federal government that is made up of the national courts; interprets laws, punishes criminals, and settles disputes.

Legislative Branch: the division of the government that proposes bills and passes them into laws.

Checks and Balances: a system established by the Constitution that prevents any branch of government from becoming too powerful.

Antifederalists: people who opposed ratification of the Constitution.

Federalists: people who supported ratification of the Constitution.

Federalist Papers: a series of essays that defended and explained the Constitution and tried to reassure Americans that the states would not be overpowered.

Amendment: official change, correction, or addition to law or constitution.

Bill of Rights: the first 10 amendments to the Constitution; ratified in 1791.

Federal System: a system that divided powers between the states and the federal government.

Impeach: to bring charges against.

Veto: to cancel.

Executive Orders: nonlegislative directives issued by the U.S. president in certain circumstances; executive orders have the force of congressional law.

Pardon: freedom from punishment.

Petition: to make a formal request of the government.

Search Warrant: a judge's order authorizing the search of a person's home or property to look for evidence of a crime.

Due Process: the fair application of the law.

Double Jeopardy: the act of trying a person twice for the same crime.

Eminent Domain: the government's power to take personal property to benefit the public.

Naturalized Citizens: a person born in another country who has been granted citizenship in the United States.

Electoral College: a group of people selected from each of the states to cast votes in presidential elections.

Precedent: an action or decision that later serves as an example.

Judiciary Act of 1789: legislation passed by Congress that created the federal system.

Loose Construction: a way of interpreting the Constitution that allows the federal government to take actions that the Constitution does not specifically forbid it from taking.

Strict Construction: a way of interpreting the Constitution that allows the federal government to take only those actions the Constitution specifically says it can take.

Bank of the United States: a national bank chartered by Congress in 1791 to provide security for the U.S. economy.

Neutrality Proclamation (1793): a statement made by President George Washington that the United States would not side with any of the nations at war in Europe following the French Revolution.

Whiskey Rebellion (1794): a protest of small farmers in Pennsylvania against new taxes on whiskey.

Federalist Party: a political party created in the 1790s and influenced by Alexander Hamilton that wanted to strengthen the federal government and promote industry and trade.

Democratic-Republican Party: a political party founded in the 1790s by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other leaders who wanted to preserve the power of the state governments and promote agriculture.

XYZ Affair (1797): an incident in which French agents attempted to get a bribe and loans from U.S. diplomats in exchange for an agreement that French privateers would no longer attack American ships; it led to an undeclared naval war between the two countries.

Alien and Sedition Acts (1798): laws passed by a Federalist-dominated government from treasonous ideas, actions, and people.

Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions (1798-1799): Republican documents that argued that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.

Marbury v. Madison (1803): U.S. Supreme Court case that established the principle of judicial review.

Judicial Review: the Supreme Court's power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.

Louisiana Purchase (1803): the purchase of French land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains that doubled the size of the United States.

Lewis and Clark Expedition: an expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark that began in 1804 to explore the Louisiana Purchase.

Impressment: the practice of forcing people to serve in the army or navy; led to increased tensions between Great Britain and the United States in the early 1800's.

Embargo Act (1807): a law that prohibited American merchants from trading with other countries.

Non-Intercourse Act (1809): a law that replaced the Embargo Act and restored trade with all nations except Britain, France, and their colonies.

War Hawks: members of Congress who wanted to declare war against Britain after the Battle of Tippecanoe.

War of 1812: a war between Britain and the United States, fought between 1812 and 1815.

Battle of New Orleans (1815): the greatest U.S. victory in the War of 1812; actually took place two weeks after a peace treaty had been signed ending the war.

Treaty of Ghent (1814): a treaty signed by the United States and Britain ending the war of 1812.

Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817): an agreement that limited naval power on the Great Lakes for both the United States and British Canada.

Convention of 1818: an agreement between the United States and Great Britain that settled fishing rights and established new North American borders.

Adams-Onis Treaty (1819): an agreement in which Spain gave East Florida to the United States.

Monroe Doctrine (1823): President James Monroe's statement forbidding further colonization in the Americas and declaring that any attempt by a foreign country to colonize would be considered an act of hostility.

Notionalism: a sense of pride and devotion to a nation.

American System: Henry Clay's plan for raising tariffs to pay for internal improvements such as better roads and canals.

Cumberland Road: the first federal road project, construction of which began in 1815; ran from Cumberland, Maryland, to present-day Wheeling, West Virginia.

Erie Canal: the canal that runs from Albany to Buffalo, New York.

Era of Good Feelings: a period of peace, pride, and progress for the United States from 1815 to 1825.

Sectionalism: a devotion to the interests of one geographic region over the interests of the country as a whole.

Missouri Compromise (1820): an agreement proposed by Henry Clay that allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state and Maine to enter as a free state and outlawed slavery in any territories or states north of 36° 30'.

Jacksonian Democracy: an expansion of voting rights during the popular Andrew Jackson administration.

Spoils System: a politicians' practice of giving government jobs to his or her supporters.

Kitchen Cabinet: President Andrew Jackson's group of informal advisers; so called because they often met in the White House kitchen.

Tariff of Abominations (1828): the nickname given to a tariff by southerners who opposed it.

States' Rights Doctrine: the belief that the power of the states should be greater than the power of the federal government.

Nullification Crisis: a dispute that led John C. Calhoun to say that states could ignore federal laws if they believed those laws violated the Constitution.

McCulloch v. Maryland (1819): U.S. Supreme Court case that declared the Second Bank of the United States was constitutional and that Maryland could not interfere with it.

Whig party: a political party formed in 1834 by opponents of Andrew Jackson and who supported a strong legislature.

Indian Removal Act (1830): a congressional act that authorized the removal of Native Americans who lived east of the Mississippi River.

Indian Territory: an area covering most of present-day Oklahoma to which most Native Americans in the Southeast were forced to move in the 1830s.

Bureau of Indian Affairs: a government agency created in 1800s to oversee federal policy toward Native Americans.

Worcester v. Georgia (1832): the Supreme Court ruling that stated that the Cherokee nation was a distinct territory over which only the federal government had authority; ignored by both President Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia.

Trail of Tears (1838-1839): an 800 mile forced march made by the Cherokee from their homeland in Georgia to Indian Territory; resulted in the deaths of almost one fourth of the Cherokee people.

Manifest Destiny: a belief shared by many Americans in the mid-1800s that the United States should expand across the continent to the Pacific Ocean.