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| **NC Essential Standards** |
| * **Summarize** the democratic ideals expressed in local, state, and national government.
* **Evaluate** the degree to which democratic ideals are evident in historical documents from North Carolina and the United States.
* **Analyze** differing viewpoints on the scope and power of state and national governments.
* **Use** primary and secondary sources to interpret various historical perspectives.
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| **Key Understandings** To deepen the student’s understanding  | **Key Knowledge** Knowledge needed to deepen student’s understandings  |  |
| * Historical documents reflect the citizens’ principles and democratic ideals.
* Various opinions amongst individuals and states hindered the growth and support of the new developing government.
* The Federal and State Constitutions, through debate and compromise, primarily represent the American democratic ideals.
* Many democratic ideals divided groups that shaped the fundamentals of the constitution.
 | * The Continental Congress quickly created the country’s first constitution, the Articles of Confederation, towards the end of the American Revolution, as they knew the country needed to have a governing set of laws once they gained independence from Britain.
* The Articles of Confederation was partially successful but as we moved forward, states came to the conclusion that we had to create a new constitution because we needed to unify the country economically and politically.
* The ratification of the Constitution came after much debate and compromise between the Federalists and Antifederalists. The Federalists argued for a stronger national government while the Anti-Federalists argued for stronger state governments.
* The U.S. Constitution, the country’s second and current constitution became a flexible document that could change through time and interpretation.
* The **Constitution** was based on seven core principles which were the guiding ideas that the framers used when deciding how the new government should be formed. Each of these was based on earlier philosophical concepts, many from the Enlightenment period in Europe. It was created as a flexible document that can change through time and interpretation.
* The Constitution contains 7 articles and 27 amendments. The first ten amendments focus on citizen rights and are collectively called the **Bill of Rights**.
* Our government is split into three branches (**executive, legislative, judicia**l) that have different roles and responsibilities at the federal level. They were designed to help the new nation avoid a situation like the monarchy from which they had just broke free.
* There is a system of **checks and balances** to keep any of the branches from becoming too powerful.
* American citizens may choose to vote during the election process in local, state, and federal elections.
* Powers amongst the local, state, and federal governments may be shared (concurrent) or separate (reserved/enumerated).
* Each state created their own constitutions through debates and compromise. Each constitution is reflective of their state’s beliefs and core principles.
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