We the People

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners	Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	The ideas and inspirations that led the founding fathers to developing their ideas of the best form of government for our new nation.
Social Studies Standards	**C3:D2.Civ.8.9-12.** Evaluate social and political systems in different contexts, times, and places that promote civic virtues and enact democratic principles. **C3:D2.Civ.2.9-12.** Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, with attention to various theories of democracy, changes in Americans' participation over time, and alternative models from other countries, past and present. **C3:D2.Civ.4.9-12.** Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested.
Learning Outcomes	• Students will explain where philosophical ideals regarding our government originated, and how they have been incorporated into the U.S. Constitution.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/govGeoinquiry13

❓ Ask

What are "American" ideals?

➔ Click the URL above to launch the map.
➔ Click different flags to open the pop-ups and read the information.
❓ What are the common themes in these documents? *[Justice, safety, self-government, the Constitution, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness]*
➔ Click the button, Bookmarks. Select The 13 Colonies.
❓ What are the major ideals in the Gettysburg Address and the Mayflower Compact? *[Government of the people, by the people, for the people.]*

⊕ Acquire

What type of experience did Americans have with government?

➔ With the Details button underlined, click the button Show Contents Of Map.
➔ Uncheck the box to the left of the layer name, American Ideals.
➔ Turn on the two layers, Original 13 Colonies and Governments of 13 Colonies.
➔ Click the button, Show Map Legend.
❓ What are the three forms of government that the colonies were ruled under? *[Charter, royal, and proprietary]*
❓ Which form of government was the most widely used in the colonies? *[Royal]*
❓ Did any of the colonies have a democratic republic? *[No]*
❓ Which colonies likely had the most self-rule? *[Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut]*

🔍 Explore

Where did Americans get their ideas for government?

➔ Turn off the layer, Original 13 Colonies.
➔ Turn on the layer, Philosophical Foundations.
➔ Select the bookmark, Foundations.
❓ Where are the closest and farthest (to Philadelphia) influences of the American government? *[Iroquois Confederacy, 202 miles; Ancient Athens, 5,016 miles]*
❓ Where did most of the philosophical influences from? *[Europe]*

more ▶

▣ Analyze

Where did the philosophies for American government originate?

– The Articles of Confederation, the first government of the United States, were ratified in 1781.

? Why might the colonists have chosen a confederation as their first form of government? *[Most direct access; the Iroquois were close to the new country]*

? Why do you think we may have adopted ideals of government from Europe and not from other places? *[Cultural connections and trade relationships]*

☑ Act

Where did American ideals spread?

– One of the major ideas to come out of the "American experiment" is the idea of written governmental laws and plan in a constitution.

➜ Turn off layer, Philosophical Foundations.

? Which other countries or regions would you expect to develop similar constitutions next and why? *[Answers will vary.]*

➜ Zoom out to view the whole world.

➜ Turn on the layer, Years Of Constitution.

? Which regions have the oldest constitutions? *[Northern Europe and Canada]*

USE THE MEASURE TOOL

- Click Measure, select the Distance button, and from the drop-down list, choose a unit of measurement.
- On the map, click once to start the measurement, click again to change direction, and double-click to stop measuring.
- Hint: Position the area of interest on the map so that it is not obscured by the Measure window.

TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

- Make sure that the Details pane is selected, and click Show Contents Of Map.
- To show individual map layers, select the check boxes next to the layer names.
- Hint: If a map layer name is light gray, zoom in or out on the map until the layer name is black. The layer can now be turned on.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to U.S. public, private, and home schools as a part of the White House ConnectED Initiative. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://connected.esri.com.

THEN TRY THIS...

• Explore the Governments Around the World GeoInquiry, and examine how the U.S. government compares to other governments around the world.

• Explore the The Two Koreas story map (http://esriurl.com/Geo54B) and contrast the different governments.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *American Government and Politics Today by Wadsworth Cengage Learning — Chapters 1 and 2*
- *We the People by Center for Civic Education — Chapters 1–5*
- *Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You by Teachers' Curriculum Institute — Chapter 3*