- 1 Magruder's American Government CHAPTER 2 Origins of American Government 2 | **CHAPTER 2 Origins of American Government SECTION 1 Our Political Beginnings** SECTION 2 The Coming of Independence **SECTION 3 The Critical Period** SECTION 4 Creating the Constitution SECTION 5 Ratifying the Constitution 3 SECTION 1 **Our Political Beginnings** · What basic concepts of government were held by American colonists? Which important English documents have had the most influence on our government? How were the governments of the thirteen colonies organized? 4 Basic Concepts of Government • The need for an ordered social system, or government. The idea of limited government, that is, that government should not be all-powerful. The concept of representative government—a government that serves the will of the people. **5** Important English Documents The way our government works today can be traced to important documents in history: 6 E The Thirteen Colonies 7 Section 1 Review 1. All of the following are basic concepts of government brought to the colonies by English settlers EXCEPT (a) the need for limited government. (b) the need for a representative government.
 - (c) the need for an autocratic government.
 - (d) the need for an ordered social system.
 - 2. Which of the following was not one of the rights granted in

the Magna Carta?

- (a) The right to private property.
- (b) The right to a trial by jury.
- (c) The right to freedom of religion.
- (d) The right to undergo due process of the law.
- $8 \blacksquare SECTION 2$

The Coming of Independence

- What were Britain's colonial policies and how did the colonists react to them?
- What were the outcomes of the First and Second Continental Congresses?
- How did American independence come about, and what were its effects?

9 🔲 British Colonial Policies

- Until the mid-1700s, the colonies were allowed a great deal of freedom in their governments by the English monarchy.
- In 1760, King George III imposed new taxes and laws on the colonists.
- The colonists started a confederation, proposed an annual congress, and began to rebel.

10 Growing Colonial Unity

- Early Attempts
 - In 1643, several New England settlements formed the New England Confederation.
 - A confederation is a joining of several groups for a common purpose.
- 2 The Albany Plan
 - In 1754, Benjamin Franklin proposed the Albany Plan of Union, in which an annual congress of delegates (representatives) from each of the 13 colonies would be formed.

11 D The Continental Congresses

First Continental Congress

- The colonists sent a Declaration of Rights to King George III.
- The delegates urged each of the colonies to refuse all trade with England until British tax and trade regulations were repealed, or recalled.

12 American Independence

- On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.
- Between 1776 and 1777, most of the States adopted constitutions instead of charters.
- 13 Common Features of State Constitutions

14 Section 2 Review

- 1. The Declaration of Independence was signed in
 - (a) 1765.
 - (b) 1776.
 - (c) 1781.
 - (d) 1787.
- 2. The Stamp Act of 1765 was a law enacted by the British that (a) increased the colonists' taxes.
 - (b) was repealed by the Magna Carta.
 - (c) the colonists ratified one year later.
 - (d) raised the price of postage stamps by two cents.

15 SECTION 3

The Critical Period

- What were the Articles of Confederation?
- Why were the 1780s a critical period in United States history?
- What did America do to create a stronger government in the 1780s?
- 16 III The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation established "a firm league of friendship" among the States.

17 Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

18 A Call for a Stronger Government

- Representatives from Maryland and Virginia met at Mount Vernon, Virginia, in 1785 to discuss trade issues.
- The meeting was so successful that the Virginia General Assembly requested a meeting of all thirteen States, which eventually became the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

19 Section 3 Review

- The government set up by the Articles of Confederation had
 - (a) the power to make treaties and build a navy.
 - (b) a bicameral congress.
 - (c) separation of powers.
 - (d) a President to carry out its laws.
- 2. Which of the following was a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
 - (a) Congress could not make treaties.
 - (b) Congress could not borrow money.
 - (c) The States did not agree to obey the Articles.
 - (d) Congress could not lay or collect taxes or duties.

20 SECTION 4

Creating the Constitution

- Who were the Framers of the Constitution?
- What were the differences between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan?
- What were some of the compromises on which the Constitutional Convention agreed?
- What sources did the delegates draw on and how did they react when they completed the Constitution?
- 21 Framers of the Constitution

22 Different Constitutional Plans

- 1 The Virginia Plan
 - Three branches of government
 - Bicameral legislature
 - "National Executive" and "National Judiciary"
- 2 The New Jersey Plan
 - Unicameral Congress
 - · Equal representation for States of different sizes
 - More than one federal executive

23 Constitutional Compromises

 The Connecticut Compromise Delegates agreed on a bicameral Congress, one segment with equal representation for States, and the other with representation proportionate to the States' populations.

- The Three-Fifths Compromise The Framers decided to count a slave as three-fifths of a person when determining the population of a State.
- The Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise Congress was forbidden from taxing exported goods, and was not allowed to act on the slave trade for 20 years.

24 Influences on and Reactions to

the New Constitution

Influences

- The Framers were familiar with the political writings of their time, such as works by Jean Jacques Rousseau and John Locke.
- They also were seasoned, variously, by the Second Continental Congress, the Articles of Confederation and experiences with their own State governments.

25 Section 4 Review

- 1. The first national government for the United States was
 - (a) the First Continental Congress.
 - (b) the Second Continental Congress.
 - (c) the Articles of Confederation.
 - (d) the Constitution of the United States.
- 2. The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia involved delegates from each of the following states except
 - (a) Maryland.
 - (b) Rhode Island.
 - (c) New York.
 - (d) Virginia.
- $26 \blacksquare SECTION 5$

Ratifying the Constitution

- Who were the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists?
- How long did the ratification of the Constitution take?
- What happened after its ratification?

27 In Federalists and Anti-Federalists

The Constitution was very controversial at first, with some

- groups supporting it, and others attacking it.
- 28 The Constitution is Ratified
 - Nine States ratified the Constitution by June 21, 1788, but the new government needed the ratification of the large States of New York and Virginia.
 - Great debates were held in both States, with Virginia ratifying the Constitution June 25, 1788.
 - New York's ratification was hard fought. Supporters of the Constitution published a series of essays known as *The Federalist*.

29 Inaugurating the Government

- The new Congress met for the first time on March 4, 1789.
- Congress finally attained a quorum (majority) on April 6 and counted the electoral votes. Congress found that George Washington had been unanimously elected President. He was inaugurated on April 30.

30 Section 5 Review

- 1. The debate over the ratification of the Constitution was won by the
 - (a) Anti-Federalists.
 - (b) Whigs.
 - (c) Federalists.
 - (d) Tories.
- 2. The temporary capital of the United States where Congress met in 1789 was
 - (a) Washington, D.C.
 - (b) Philadelphia.
 - (c) New York.
 - (d) Mount Vernon.