**Unit 3 Vocabulary Terms (study these and make flash cards!)**

**1787**

THE YEAR The Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia, PA

**Anti-Federalists**

Group of people who did not support a strong federal government because they feared it would lead to too much control. They wanted state governments to be powerful. They would not ratify the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was added

**Bill of Rights**

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution protecting individual liberties. It was based on the English Bill of Rights and the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

**Compromise**

The idea that people who disagree will slightly adjust their perspectives to find common ground with an opponent.

**English Bill of Rights**

Written by William and Mary in the late 1600s, this document promised freedoms to English citizens and served as a main basis for our Bill of Rights

**Executive Branch**

The branch that enforces laws, led by a president

**Federalism**

the principle that power is shared between state governments and the federal government

**Federalists**

Individuals that wanted a strong federal government to maintain stability for America. They wrote a series of essays called the Federalist Papers, seeking to convince the public to support ratification of the Constitution

**Judicial Branch**

The branch of government that interprets the laws (the court system)

**Legislative Branch**

The branch of government that writes laws (Congress)

**Limited Government**

The principle that governments do not have supreme power. It was inspired first by the Magna Carta, and steps were taken in the Constitution to ensure the government could not overstep its authority.

**Magna Carta**

The document signed by King John in 1215 that took power away from a divine ruler and placed some in the hands of Parliament. It protected nobles from potential tyranny.

**Popular Sovereignty**

The principle that power in America comes from the people, not from leaders.

**Separation of Powers**

This principle is based on Charles de Montesquieu’s ideas, government is split into 3 branches to prevent any one from having too much control, and to ensure each one’s roles were clearly defined.

**U.S. Constitution**

This document is the blueprint or outline for US government. It outlined a strong federal government with clear roles and authority. It is amendable to adapt with the times and to ensure people have a say in changing it.