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Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Unit 6 Day 6

Aim: What is the structure and key principles of the United States Constitution?

**Structure of the United States Constitution**

* **Preamble**
	+ Introduces the general goals of government.
* Articles
	+ Seven of them; outlines the **plan for government**
1. The Legislative Branch
2. The Executive Branch
3. The Judicial Branch
4. Relations between and among the States
5. **Amendment**  Procedure
6. Miscellaneous items
7. Ratification Procedure.
* Amendments
	+ Additions and Changes to the Constitution; 27 in total
		- 1-10**: Bill of Rights** added in 1791.
		- 11-27: Changes necessary for a changing nation

**Six Principles in Forming a New Government**

1. **Limited Government**: The Constitution **limits** the government - it specifically lists what the government **can and cannot do.**

2. **Federalism**: The Constitution **divides power** between the **state**

governments and **central (Federal)** government

3. **Representative Government**: The Constitution allows people to **elect** the people who **make the decisions.**



4. **Separation of Powers**: The Constitution divides power within the Federal government into **three branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.**



5. **Checks and Balances**: The Constitution gives each branch power **what over and limit power** of other branches

6. **Provisions for Change**: The Constitution allows Congress to **adapt** by **stretching its’ power** (Elastic Clause) and **change** through **amendments**



***Added Later***

1. **Judicial Review**
	* The power of the Courts to decide if Congress or actions of the President are **Constitutional**
	* Constitutional means “within the limits of the Constitution.”
	* This power was gained by the Court in a case called *Marbury vs. Madison* in 1803.