Module 2: Principles of the American Revolution 2.3 Activity Guide

KEY TERMS PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Why did the American colonists believe that they had the right to overthrow their government? By examining the principles of the American Revolution, you will engage with key concepts from the period and the meaning of these key principles that continue to drive our democracy today.

Review the interaction to help you fill out the chart below with the module key terms:

- Natural Rights
- Popular Sovereignty
- Rule of Law
- Social Contract Theory

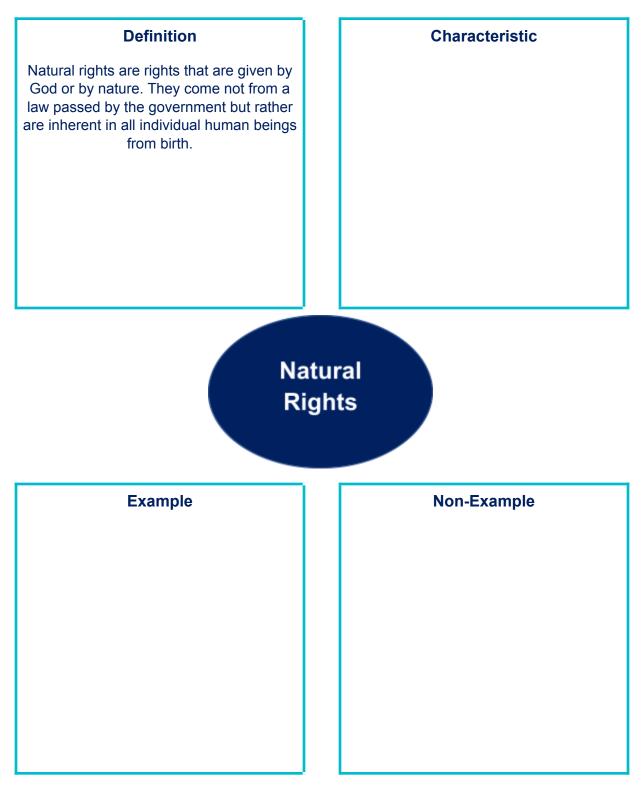
Every revolution (or push for change) needs a sturdy foundation rooted in key principles that answer a simple (but essential) question: *Why*?

Think about the American Revolution. The American colonists were small in number, were mostly farmers, and against the odds still chose to pick a fight with the most powerful country in the world. That took courage, but it also took powerful ideas. What principles made them believe that they could win—and that the American Revolution itself was a fight worth winning?

Read over the definitions of the four key principles. These principles helped to support the colonists' claim for independence. Begin to complete the other attributes of the principles. As you do so, re-read the questions stated above and discuss them with peers. Remember that *principles* are defined as "fundamental truths that serve as the foundation of a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning." How do these principles serve as the foundation for the American Revolution and continue to define the American idea?

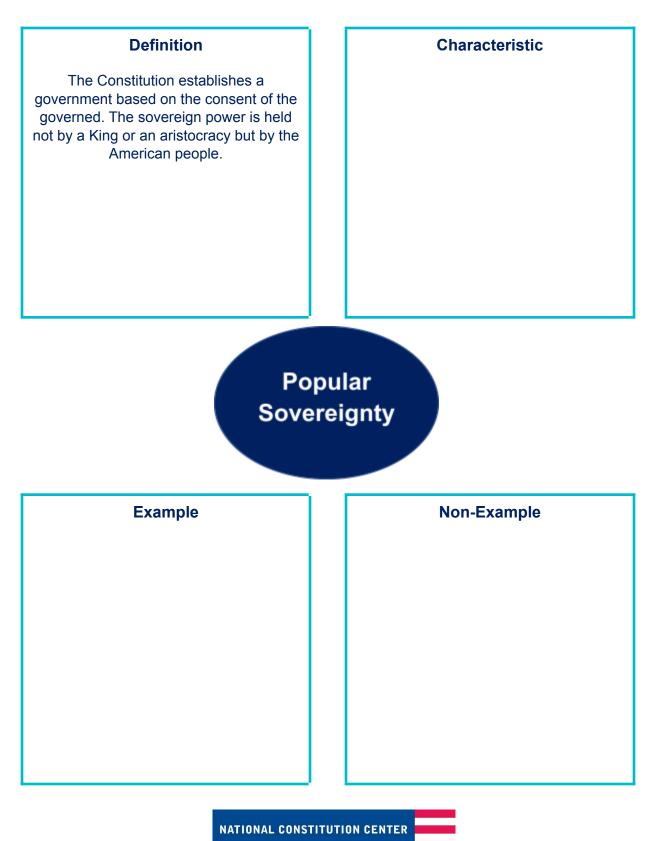


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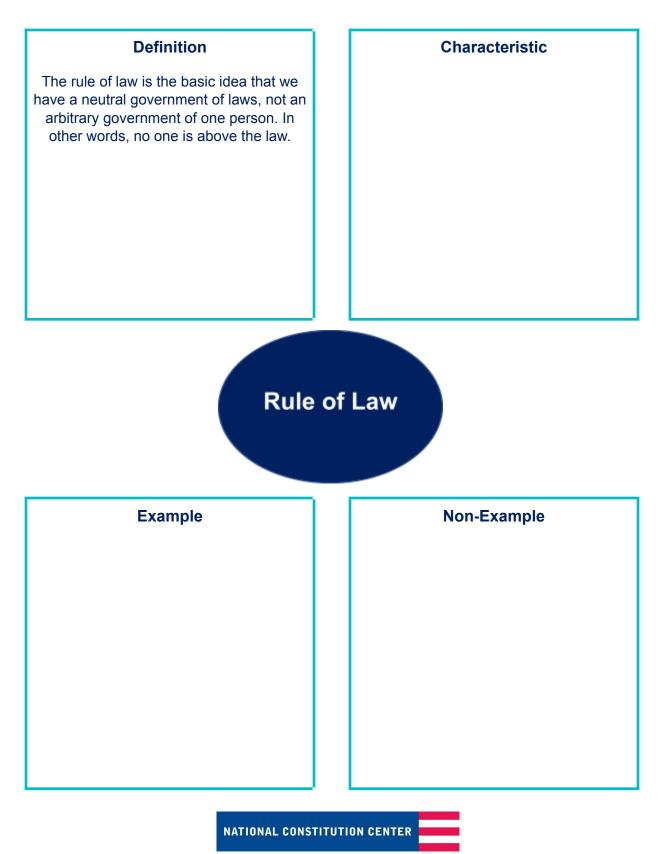


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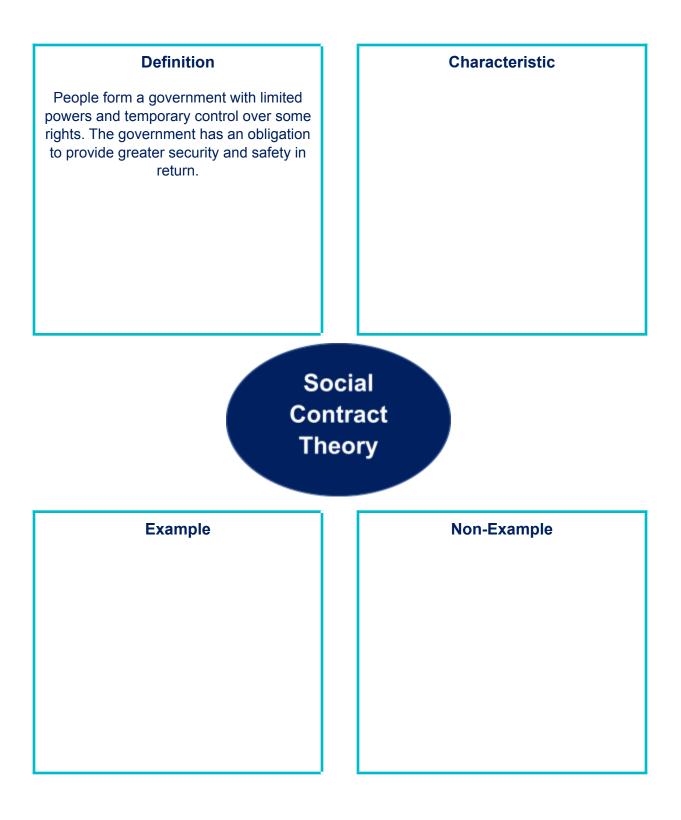
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