



Why a Constitutional Republic?:
 SS.7.CG.3.2
Systems of Government
READING #3

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.C.3.2 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will recognize examples of these systems of government.

System of Government	Example
Federal	The United States' national government consists of an elected President, Congress, and a Supreme Court. The United States has 50 individual states, each with their own constitution. State governments also have legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The central government shares powers with the state governments.
Confederal	The first government formed by the colonists after winning independence was done so under the Articles of Confederation. This was a loose friendship among the states with little to no power given to a central government.
Unitary	Prior to declaring independence, colonists were under British rule. The central government consisted of a king and parliament. Colonists and their local governing bodies had little to no say over things such as taxes.

confederal system - a system of government where power is located with the independent states and there is little power in the central government

federal system - a system of government where power is shared between a central government and states

legislative - the power of government to make laws

unitary system - a system of government where almost all power is located with the central government