

Name _____ Date _____

We the People

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain owned 13 colonies in the New World that is, America. However, in 1776, the United States officially announced its separation from Britain with the Declaration of Independence. Britain didn't want to give the colonies up, but in 1783, the United States won the Revolutionary War. It was its own country at last.

Now the new country needed a new government. The revolutionary leaders didn't want a system like England's, with a king or queen holding much of the power. Instead, they thought people should govern themselves. This idea is known as self-government.

2. b'

In 1787, a group of American leaders came together to craft a set of rules for the new government. These leaders are known as America's Founding Fathers. The set of rules they created is called the Constitution. It remains the law of the land today.

One of the most important ideas in the Constitution is that ordinary citizens have the right to participate in decisions that affect the country. One way to do this is by voting in elections. When we vote, we are giving our consent for the leaders we choose to make certain decisions for us.

Notes

Notes

3. b''

The Founding Fathers created the Constitution in 1787. But they couldn't predict the future. They knew life would change in ways they couldn't even imagine. Rules made in 1787 might not work so well in 1887, 1987, or 2087. So the Founding Fathers made rules for amending, or changing, the Constitution. By 1992, the Constitution had been amended 27 times. The 13th Amendment, which was added in 1865, outlawed slavery. The 19th Amendment, added in 1920, gave women the right to vote.

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