Articles of Confederation-Ratification Vocabulary Sheet

**Articles of Confederation:** The first system of government used to organize the United States of America after the colonies gained its independence from Great Britain.

**Northwest Ordinance of 1787:** Law that set requirements that must be met for territories in the Ohio Valley to apply for statehood (elect a legislature, adopt a state constitution, prohibit slavery, etc.)

**Constitutional Convention:** Meeting during 1787 in Philadelphia to debate Articles and eventually write a new plan of government.

**“Founding Fathers”:** Group of delegates who were part of the Constitutional Convention that developed the Constitution.

**Levy:** to place and collect (taxes)

**Coin:**  to make (money)

**Bi-Cameral:** two houses

**The Great Compromise:** created a bi-cameral legislature with equal representation in the Senate and representation according to state population in the House.

**Three-Fifths Compromise:** each five slaves would count as three persons for taxation and representation purposes.

**Imports:** foreign goods being brought into the country.

**Exports:** domestic goods sent to be sold overseas.

**Tariff Compromise:** Congress could tax imports but not exports.

**Ratify:** to approve

**Federalists:** supporters of the ratification of the Constitution

**Anti-Federalist:** opponents of the ratification of the Constitution because of fear that too much federal power would infringe on people’s rights.

**Preamble:** the introduction to the Constitution that states its purpose, aims, and justification.

**Delegated Powers:** powers given to the federal government.

**Implied Powers:** powers not specifically stated in the Constitution, but assumed by Congress.

**Reserved Powers:** powers set aside for the states, not the federal government

**Denied Powers:** actions and laws forbidden to both the federal and state governments.

**Elastic Clause:** allows Congress to stretch or expand its powers.

**Habeas Corpus:** a person must be publically told of the charges against them.

**Ex Post Facto Law:** a person cannot be charged with a crime if the action wasn’t illegal at the time.

**Bill of Attainder:** a person cannot be pronounced guilty of a crime (usually treason) and punished by death without proper legal procedure of trial.

**Separation of Powers:** dividing authority within a government into 3 branches to ensure one group or person will not become too powerful.

**Judicial Branch:** branch of the government that interprets the law’s constitutionality.

**Legislative Branch:** branch of the government that has the power to make the laws.

**Executive Branch:** branch of the government that is responsible for enforcing the law.

**Checks and Balances:** each branch within the government has certain jobs which balances the power of the other branches and keeps them in check.

**Regulate:** to control or maintain

**Veto:** to reject or forbid

**Electoral college:**  process of electing the President.

**Zenger Trial:** trial (and eventual acquittal) of journalist John Peter Zenger for harshly criticizing the New York colony’s royal governor. The trial is set a precedent for the First Amendment right of freedom of the press.