

Activity 1. Questions to form a Government

Student Name _____ Date _____

To give you an idea of the difficult position the Americans found themselves in after the American Revolution, consider this problem:

Imagine that on a field trip to a wilderness area or sailing trip to a small, remote island, you all became stranded without any communication with parents, the school, or other adults and had little hope of being rescued in the foreseeable future. The area where you're marooned can provide the basic necessities of food, shelter, and water, but you will have to work together to survive.

You've agreed that you're more likely to survive long enough to be rescued if you work together. Working in small groups, brainstorm a list of recommendations to consider when developing a government following the guiding questions below.

1. How will you make sure everyone sticks together and works towards the common goal of getting rescued?

2. How will you make sure that anyone who feels unfairly treated will have a place to air complaints?

3. How will you make sure that people can have peace and quiet?

4. How will you make sure that group members will help if outsiders arrive who threaten your group?

5. How will you make sure that the improvements you make on the island (such as shelters, fireplaces and the like) will be used fairly?

The Preamble to the Constitution: A Close Reading Lesson

6. How will you make sure that group members will be free to do what they want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else?

7. How will you make sure that the rules and organizations you develop protect future generations?