**Principles of the Constitution**

The 5 Principles of the Constitution are founded in the idea of creating a strong central government but also giving the states and individuals the ability to govern themselves.

The 5 Principles are listed below:

1. Popular Sovereignty
2. Limited Government
3. Federalism
4. Separation of Powers
5. Checks and Balances

Match the Principles of the Constitution to the appropriate definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ This principle ensures that power is divided between the national and state governments.

\_\_\_\_\_ This principle creates a national government that is divided into three branches all with independent powers.

\_\_\_\_\_ This principle ensures the people have a say in the government through elected representatives.

\_\_\_\_\_ This principle created a system in which each branch of government limits the other branches’ powers as a way to prevent them from becoming too powerful.

\_\_\_\_\_ This principle ensures that the authority of the government is restricted to specific powers.

Match the Principles of the Constitution to the appropriate comparison.

\_\_\_\_\_ A family is deciding what to have for dinner. Each family member, children and adults, vote on what they want.

\_\_\_\_\_ A CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and a CFO (Chief Financial Officer) of a company work together as business partners.

\_\_\_\_\_ A mother and father of a family making important decisions.

\_\_\_\_\_ A principal has authority of the school overall and a teacher has authority of his/her classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ A school administration has authority over students but cannot enforce certain forms of discipline.

For each of the Principles of the Constitution, explain how it strengthens the United States.

Popular Sovereignty:

Limited Government:

Federalism:

Separation of Powers:

Checks and Balances:

Reflection Questions

How did the framers of the Constitution attempt to create balance between too much and too little government?

Which of the 5 Principles is most important in creating a strong, balanced and safe government? Why?