

## Creating a New Government

## Social Studies Skills

### Making Inferences

#### LEARN THE SKILL

Inferences are implied, or unstated, ideas drawn from details in the reading. Making inferences means using clues in the text to connect implied ideas with stated facts and your own prior knowledge and common sense. Learning how to make inferences will help you gain greater understanding about historical people, places, and events from the reading.

#### PRACTICE THE SKILL

Use the following strategies to make inferences about a reading.

1. Recognize the passage's main ideas and supporting details.
2. Identify implied ideas. Statistics and opinionated language can lead to implied understanding.
3. Review stated and unstated ideas, and compare them with your prior knowledge.

**Momentous then is the question you have to determine, and you are called upon by every motive which should influence a noble and virtuous mind, to examine it well, and to make up a wise judgment. It is insisted, indeed, that this constitution must be received, be it ever so imperfect. If it has its defects, it is said, they can be best amended when they are experienced. But remember, when the people once part with power, they can seldom or never resume it again but by force . . . This is a sufficient reason to induce you to be careful, in the first instance, how you deposit the powers of government.**

—from *Brutus I*, an Antifederalist tract, October 18, 1787

#### APPLY THE SKILL

1. According to the author, what was the most troubling aspect of the proposed Constitution?

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2. What can you infer about the author's views of the Framers from this passage and your own knowledge?

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3. What language reveals that implied opinion about the Framers?

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4. What does the passage imply about the author's opinion of the reader?

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