# Big Ideas

## Understanding

1. **America Today**
   - The Constitution was written to create an effective form of government for the United States.
   - The Constitution endures because it balances power, fosters compromise, and provides for change.
   - The Bill of Rights protects the rights and liberties of Americans from potential abuses by the government.
   - Citizens play an active role in making government work.

2. **Colonial America**
   - Colonists were governed by a Mother Country, yet often the colonists governed themselves.
   - Geographic differences contributed to each colony’s economic development.
   - Diverse religious beliefs and cultures defined communities within a colony.

3. **A Country is Born: Revolutionary War**
   - Countries are the creation of the people within a society.
   - People, either collectively or individually, can effect change.
   - Change has both costs and benefits.