We The People- Unit 1 Vocab

1) Natural rights

* Rights of all people to life, liberty and property
* People have these rights because they are human.

2) State of nature

* no government and no laws

3) Constitutional government

* Government where there are limits on the person or group in power

4) Checks & balances

* Powers of government are balanced
* No one branch of government has too much power

5) Separation of power

* There are three branches of government that all have a special job.

6) Judicial branch

* Power to make decisions about the meaning, application and enforcement of laws

7) Constitution

* Framework of laws for the government

8) Civic virtue

* People are willing to give up what they want to look out for others needs.

9) Executive branch

* Power to carry out and enforce the laws

10) Higher law

* A set of laws that organize and limit the government. All people including leaders must obey the higher law.

11) Legislative branch

* Power to make the laws

12) Founders

* governmental leaders of the colonies
* Examples: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington

13) Social contract

* To create rules and laws and agree to obey them
* Example: Mayflower Compact