

Chapter 3: The Constitution

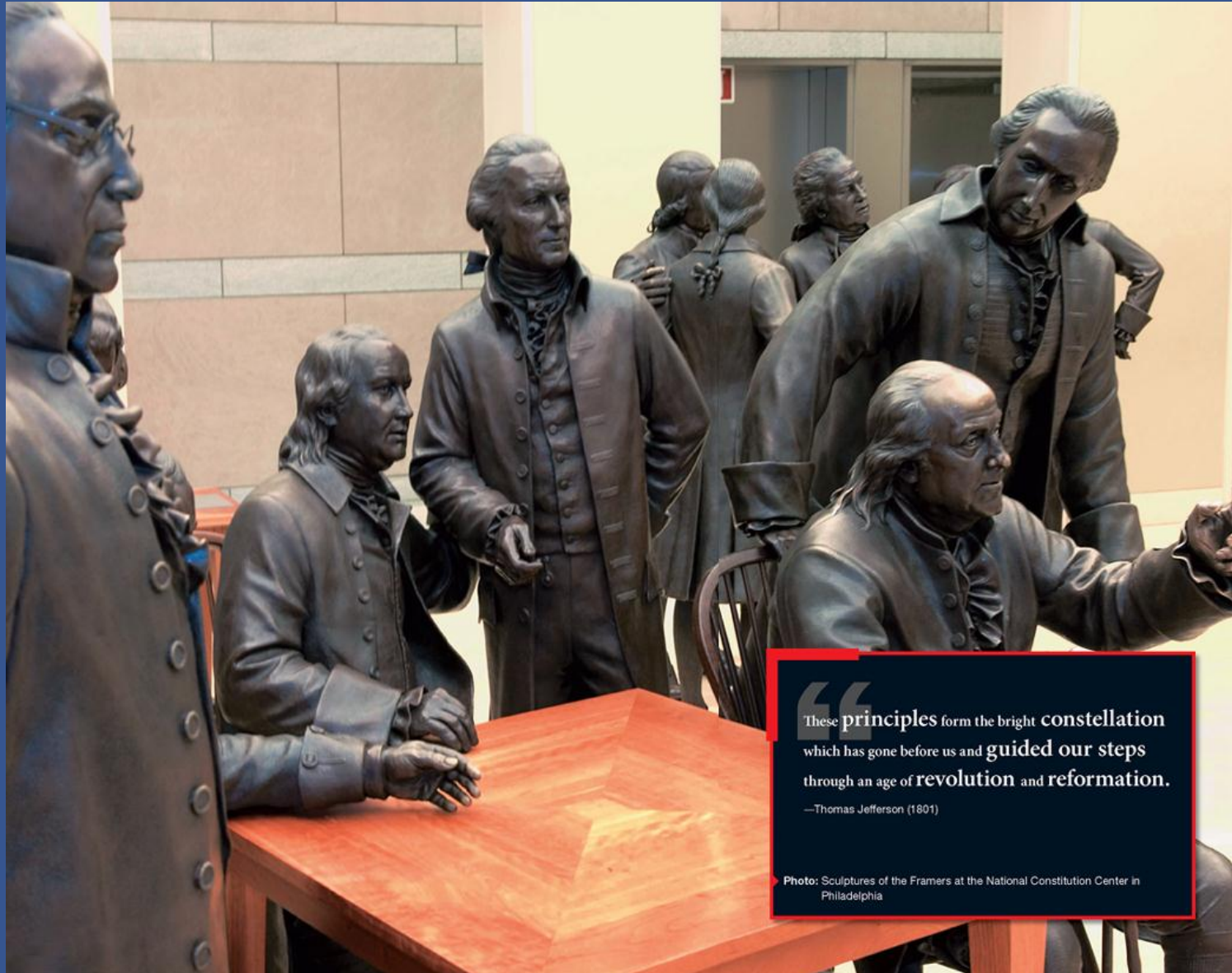
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Lecture Notes

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation.

-Thomas Jefferson (1801)



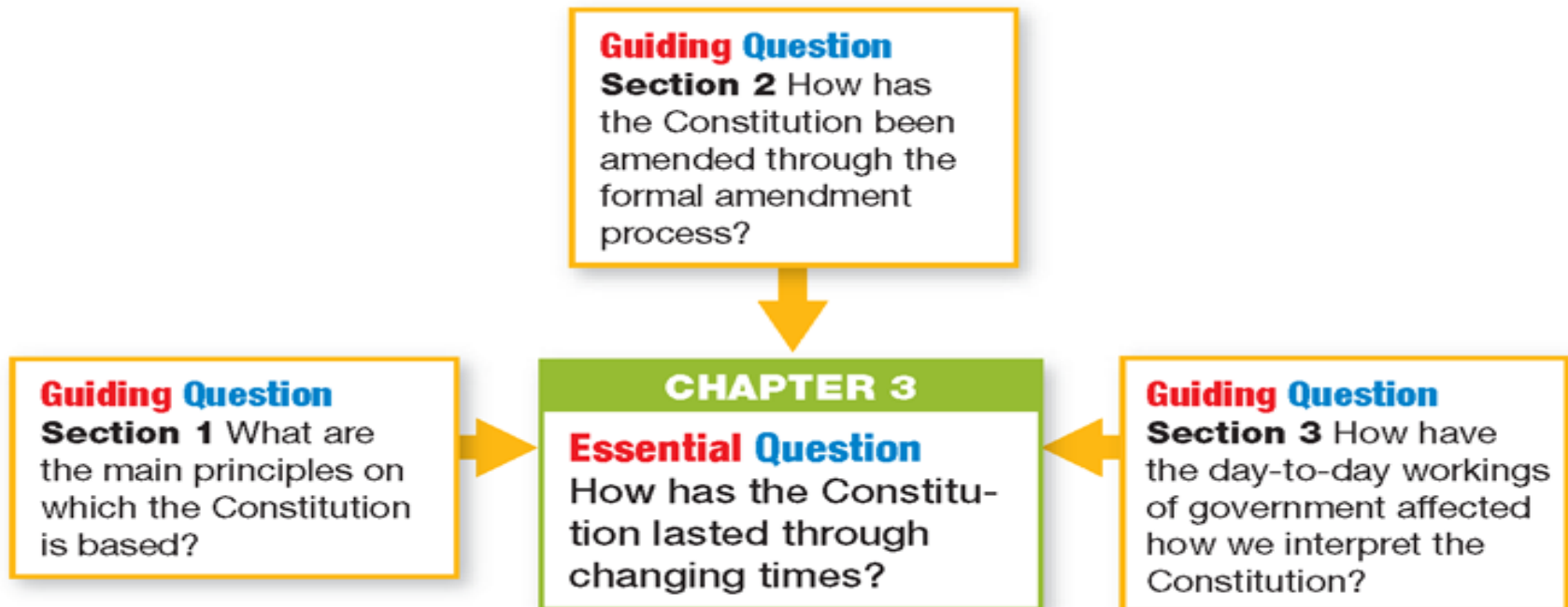
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Photo: Sculptures of the Framers at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

▶ Essential Question

- How has the Constitution lasted through changing times?



▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 1: Basic Principles
 - What are the six main principles on which the Constitution is based?
 - The Constitution is based upon popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, and federalism.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 2: Formal Amendment Process
 - How has the Constitution been amended through the formal amendment process?
 - A two-third majority of Congress has proposed 27 amendments that have been subsequently ratified by the required three-fourths of the states.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 3: Change by Other Means
 - How have the day-to-day workings of government affected how we interpret the Constitution?
 - The development of customs and the influence of political parties have combined with the efforts of the three branches of government to expand and clarify how the Constitution is interpreted.