**HISTORY MYSTERY INSTRUCTIONS**

You have all become historians. Historians are really detectives who find clues and put together puzzle pieces until a more complete picture emerges. Below is the statement that you are going to analyze. Your task is to compare this statement against all of the evidence presented in the packets at each station. You are trying to find out how accurate this statement is:

“The United States government is based off of Enlightenment principles.”

1. Each person should go to each station.
2. You should reads through all of the documents at that station.
3. As you read, you should record evidence you discover in the chart, indicating whether it proves or disproves the statement above.
4. If you find that you need information beyond what the documents provide to help you answer the question, make note of this in the space provided.
5. Record interesting points or have any questions that do not seem to fit into the chart.

**Articles of Confederation Mystery**

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| **Questions** | **Interesting Points** | **More Evidence Needed** |
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| **Evidence which Proves the Statement** | **Evidence which Disproves the Statement** |
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**Enlightenment Principles Mystery**

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| **Questions** | **Interesting Points** | **More Evidence Needed** |
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| **Evidence which Proves the Statement** | **Evidence which Disproves the Statement** |
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**The Constitution Mystery**

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| **Questions** | **Interesting Points** | **More Evidence Needed** |
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| **Evidence which Proves the Statement** | **Evidence which Disproves the Statement** |
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Now that you’ve been doing the work of a real historian you should be able to answer the following questions:

**How do historians know what they know? What types of sources do they use as evidence?**

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June 30, 1826

Dear students,

I have a great secret that only the Founding Fathers know about, but I feel that it is time the public know of this secret. I hope that by this time, our government will be secure enough to withstand the force of this great secret. This nation, the one I so dearly love and have helped to build almost did not make it. We were labeled an experiment, a false hope. England thought she’d be able to reclaim us within a few years, and I fear they were almost right.

We may have declared independence from England in 1776 but our nation struggled at first. People were scared of a strong government; we did not want to have another war. We knew we couldn’t handle one. It was a miracle we made it through the first War for Independence. So this is our big secret, the beloved Constitution which has truly created an excellent government and which so many great men worked hard to create, was not our original government. The Constitution was only adopted in 1789 by all the states, not in 1783.

We had a different government, a poor, unstable and weak government. This government was founded under the Articles of Confederation. The government did not even have enough power to put down a rebellion if we needed too. It would’ve collapsed and this great nation would have failed if we did not recognize the problems it had. I am ashamed to admit that we used poor judgment in drafting it, but unfortunately a weak government was all the people would accept.

I feel in my heart of hearts we made the right decision, and made a revolutionary one as well. However, I need you to look at the information I have kept hidden for you, even after my death and tell the world the truth about this great nation.

Sincerely,

T. Jefferson