

Instructions: Print the cartoons and cut apart as needed so there is only one cartoon per sheet of paper. Divide the class into groups of 4 and give each group a set of all cartoons. Ask students to place the cartoons in chronological order. Once that task is done, discuss the cartoons and have the students justify their groups order. There is no “right order” of the cartoons. The justification is what is important. Next, ask the groups to write captions for each cartoon. Present the captions.

KEY: Cartooning the Birth of the United States

- 1607-1700s
 - *Colonies created and ruled by Great Britain
 - *Colonists were the subjects of King George III
 - *Colonies learned to govern themselves on the local level
- 1760's
 - *War with France left England in debt
 - *New laws passed to raise revenue throughout the empire and colonists felt threatened and harassed
- April, 1775
 - *Anger and resentment erupt into revolution
- 1776
 - *Thomas Jefferson drafts the Declaration of Independence
- July 4th 1776
 - *Declaration of Independence signed setting the goals and ideals of our nation, listing the grievances against King George and Parliament, and justifying the revolution
- 1781
 - *Articles of Confederation created a loose union of states with a weak central government
- 1781-87
 - *55 Delegates meet in Philadelphia in secret to write a new plan of government because of problems with the Articles
 - *Problems immediately arise between the states over several issues
 - *Four months later the Constitution is completed – called the “Bundle of Compromises”
- 1787-88
 - *Ratification of the Constitution begins
 - *Federalists/Anti-Federalists debate on the strong central government created and the lack of a Bill of Rights in the new government.