Name _____ Date _____

Founding Principles: Popular Sovereignty, Rule of Law and Limited Government

Directions: For each situation or founding text, decide which principle it shows most directly. The countries, towns and people in the situations are invented.

1. Match each description to the principle it defines.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ The government's power comes from the people, who rule by voting and by choosing leaders
2. _____ Everyone, including leaders, must obey the same public laws, which apply to all in the same way
3. _____ The government may use only the powers it has been given, and some acts are off limits to it

Choices for question 1

A. Separation of powers
B. Federalism
C. Popular sovereignty
D. Limited government
E. Rule of law

2. Velmora is an invented country. Its new constitution can take effect only if most voters approve it. The first article says every power the government holds comes from the citizens. Which principle does this show most directly?

A. Limited government
B. Rule of law
C. Popular sovereignty
D. Federalism

3. Dana Ruiz is the mayor of Pell Creek, an invented town. She parks in a fire lane and gets the same $75 ticket any driver would. She argues that the town's top official should not have to pay. A judge rules that the law applies to her just as it does to any other driver. Which principle does the judge's ruling uphold most directly?

A. Rule of law
B. Federalism
C. Popular sovereignty
D. Limited government

4. The First Amendment bars Congress from passing laws that set up an official national religion. It also bars laws that limit freedom of speech or freedom of the press. Which principle does this amendment show most directly?

A. Popular sovereignty
B. Limited government
C. Rule of law
D. Federalism

5. Which of these situations shows popular sovereignty most directly?

A. Voters elect a new legislature after the old one ignored what most people wanted

B. A constitution lists the only subjects on which lawmakers may pass laws

C. A court rules that lawmakers must pay the same taxes as everyone else

D. A nation's central and regional governments each collect their own taxes

6. Officials in Talmora, an invented country, once punished people under rules they kept secret. A new reform changes that. Now no one may be punished under a law unless it was first published for anyone to read. Which principle does the reform protect most directly?

A. Federalism

B. Rule of law

C. Popular sovereignty

D. Separation of powers

7. Dornia is an invented country. Its constitution says the government may take private land only for a public purpose, such as building a road. Even then, it must pay the owner a fair price. Which principle does this rule show most directly?

A. Separation of powers

B. Federalism

C. Limited government

D. Popular sovereignty

8. The Preamble is the opening of the U.S. Constitution. It names the American people as the ones who create and set up the Constitution. Which principle does that opening show most directly?

A. Rule of law

B. Separation of powers

C. Limited government

D. Popular sovereignty