EXPLICIT BIG IDEA:

The US Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among branches of government based on the rule of law and the balance between majority rule and minority rights.

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION:

* An exclusive power is one reserved to the national government.
* A concurrent power is one given to both states and national governments.

| Article | Summary | Implementation of Federalist Ideals |
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| 4 | There is a clause named full faith and credit clause that requires states to share public records, judicial decisions, etc. with other states.  Apart from that it also introduces extradition clause (committing arson in MD and running to TX does not stop you from TX sending you back to MD).  Finally, there is a clause named privileges and immunities that states that states cannot make laws that give rights to residents only, for instance. | This makes sure that states each individually don’t hold that much powers in the end but still have a little power.  This also interconnects the nation in a manner superior to the Articles. |
| 1 | Article 1 sections 8-10 enumerate the powers that states and national governments have.  Section 8 is what congress can do  Section 9 is what Congress can’t do (the slave trade regulation/compromise is in there)  Section 10 is powers that states don’t have | This is the main area that defines how the federalist ideas are in law. |
| 6 | Supremacy of the national government. | Pretty obvious here how this is federalist  I hope |
| Amend 9 | Rights not listed cannot be taken away even if they aren’t explicitly stated. | Seems like a balance between individual rights and strong natl government. |
| Amend 10 | Powers that are not explicitly given to the natl government are usually given to states. | States still retain some power. |

* At times there have been conflicts as to where national government and state government have jurisdiction. While things like war declarations and education are clearly in the hands of one or the other, regulating things like marriage (same-sex marriage specifically) were in a grey area.
* The same sex example: “if states A and B grant rights to gay marriage then states 3-50 also have to grant that right.”