

Word Bank: Structure of the Constitution

Page one: Preamble, The Articles, and Article 1

1. The House of Representatives and the Senate.
2. People
3. Creates laws.
4. Outlines the structure and lists the powers of the government.
5. Opening statement. Outlines the objectives of the Constitution.

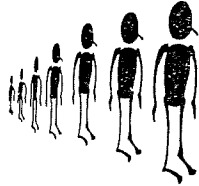
Page two: Article 2, Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5

1. Interpret the laws.
2. The president.
3. States.
4. Carryout the laws.
5. Supreme Court.
6. Amend the Constitution

Bottom of page two and page 3: Article 6, Article 7, The Amendments and Bill of Rights.

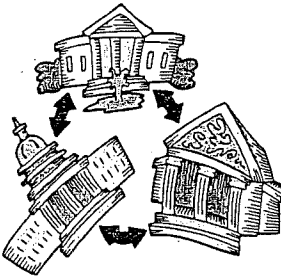
1. 27 amendments
2. National laws and treaties are more powerful than the states
3. National Supremacy
4. Individual rights.
5. Approved.
6. Ratification process

Structure of the Constitution



I. Preamble:

- Opening Statement. Outlines the
of the Constitution.
- Establishes that Authority rests with the _____



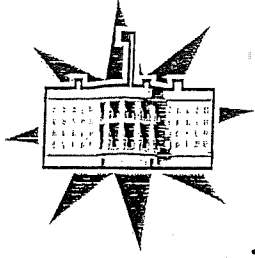
II. The Articles:

- Outlines the structure and lists the
of the government.



Article I:

- Deals with the Legislative Branch - The
House of Representatives and the
- Power of the Legislative Branch: _____



Article 2:

- Deals with the Executive Branch - The
- Power of the Executive Branch: Carryout
the



Article 3:

- Deals with the Judicial Branch - Supreme
- Power of the Judicial Branch: Interpret the

Article 4:

- Deals with issues concerning the _____

Article 5:

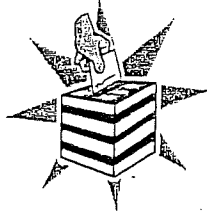
- Deals with how to _____ the Constitution



Article 6:

- Deals with National _____ - Laws and treaty of the national government are the supreme law of the land.

- National Laws and treaties are more powerful than the _____.



Article 7:

- Deals with the _____ Process - How the Constitution would be approved.

III. The Amendments:

- Added after the ratification of the constitution - Amendments.



IV. Bill of Rights:

- The _____ Amendments of the Constitution.
- Most sacred amendments that protect our rights.

Source Document

The Structure of the Constitution

I. The Basic Structure of the Constitution

A. The Constitution is divided into 3 parts

1. Preamble

- a. The preamble is the introduction to the Constitution.
- b. The preamble is the "We the People" part of the Constitution.

2. Articles

- a. The Constitution is divided into 7 sections called Articles.
- b. Each article explains a part of the Constitution.
- c. 3 important articles:
 - 1) Article I – explains the legislative branch (Congress)
 - 2) Article II – explains the executive branch (President)
 - 3) Article III – explains the judicial branch (Supreme Court)
- d. More Important Articles:
 - 1) Article 5 – explains how to add amendments to the Constitution.
 - 2) Article 6 – called "The Supremacy Clause"; states that laws made by Congress are superior to state laws; state laws are not allowed to conflict with national laws.

3. Amendments

- a. amendment – a formal written change to the Constitution
- b. The Constitution has 27 amendments.
- c. The first 10 amendments are SPECIAL – they are called:
The Bill of Rights
 - 1) The Bill of Rights lists the rights all citizens have that the government cannot take away.
 - 2) The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution by Congress in 1791 (the Constitution was written in 1787).

d. Other Important Amendments

- 1) The Civil War Amendments (c.1865)
 - a) 13th Amendment – made slavery illegal in the U.S.
 - b) 14th Amendment – all Americans are entitled to be treated equally by the laws of the U.S. – created due process of law.
 - c) 15th Amendment – former slaves have the same rights under the Constitution as all other Americans.
- 2) 16th Amendment (1913) – created the income tax
- 3) 19th Amendment (1920) – gave women the right to vote (1920)
- 4) 22nd Amendment (1952) – limits the President to two four year terms.
- 5) 25th Amendment (1967) – Presidential Succession – created rules to determine who is running the nation if the President is killed or seriously ill.
- 6) 26th Amendment (1971) – voting age changed to 18.

B. Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances**1. Separation of Powers**

- a. Each branch has certain jobs (powers) that the other branches cannot do.

2. Checks and Balances

- a. Each branch has some power over the other branches
- b. Example: Congress can pass laws, but the President can veto the law

***** Who cares??? What is the purpose of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances?? Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances were created so that no one person and no one branch could dominate or take control of the government.**

C. Organization of the Government**1. The federal government is divided into 3 branches.**

(Triangle CHART!!!!!!!!!!!!)

a. Legislative Branch (ARTICLE I)**1) The main job of the Legislative Branch is to make the laws****a) Congress makes up the legislative branch**

(1) Congress is divided into 2 houses (parts: this is called "bicameral")

(a) House of Representatives – the number of representatives from each state is determined by the population of the state (proportional representation); any law that raises or spends money must begin in the House of Representatives.

(b) Senate – 2 Senators from each state.

(c) Powers of the Legislative Branch

(1) tax

(2) create and regulate money

(3) regulate trade between the states

(4) declare war

(5) raise and support an army

(6) create laws "necessary and proper" to carry out the Constitution; "Elastic Clause"

(7) impeach the President and Supreme Court judges

(8) pass a law "over" the President's veto (2/3rds vote)

b. Executive Branch (ARTICLE II)

1) Carries out the nation's laws and policies

2) Appoint the leaders of the Executive departments (Cabinet)

3) Make treaties with other nations

4) Commander in Chief of the Military

5) Appoint judges to the Supreme Court

6) Veto laws passed by Congress

c. Judicial Branch (ARTICLE III)

1) "judicial review" – the power the Supreme Court has to decide if a law passed by Congress, or a Presidential act,

is constitutional.

REVIEW
Structure of the Constitution

Name:
Date:
Group:

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the following assignment on a separate sheet of paper.

VOCABULARY: Provide complete definitions for each of the following terms.

preamble	domestic tranquility
popular sovereignty	republicanism
federalism	enumerated powers
reserved powers	concurrent powers
amendment	judicial review
appropriate	impeach
constituents	due process of law
citizen	naturalization
cabinet	

MAIN IDEAS: Use XXXXXXXXXX class notes, and handouts to answer the following questions in a complete sentence.

1. The Constitution is divided into 3 parts. List the 3 parts of the Constitution.
2. What term is used to describe the part of the Constitution that begins with the words, "We the People of the United States ... "?
3. Which part of the government is explained by each of the following articles of the Constitution?: Article I, Article II, Article III
4. What does the "Supremacy Clause" of the Constitution say?
5. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
6. When was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?
7. Which rights are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution?
8. List the amendments that protect the following rights: "right to bear arms", protection from search and seizure, right to a speedy trial, protection from "cruel or unusual punishments"
9. What is the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
10. List and explain the "Civil War Amendments".
11. Explain each of the following amendments: 16, 19, 22, 25, 26
12. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
13. Explain separation of powers.
14. Explain checks and balances. Give an example.
15. What is the purpose of separation of powers and checks and balances?
16. List the "houses" of Congress.
17. How do we determine the number of representatives from each state in the House of Representatives?
18. How many senator does each state have?
19. How many branches make up the federal government? List each branch
20. What is the "main power" for each branch of the national government?
21. Which person or group makes up each of the following branches of the government?: legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch

22. What term is used to describe the President's advisors in the executive branch?
23. Which group has the final authority (or the most power) in our government?
24. Who is considered to be "The Father of the Constitution"?
25. How are amendments added to the Constitution?
26. Why are juries a part of our legal system?
27. What are your duties as a citizen in the United States?
28. What are your responsibilities as a citizen in the United States?
29. Explain why responsible citizenship important. Give an example of responsible citizenship.

~~Plus these homework questions:~~

~~According to the Declaration of Independence, what are our "natural rights"?~~

~~According to our class notes, what is the purpose of separation of powers and checks and balances in the Constitution?~~

~~List and define the "major principles" in the Constitution. (see chart page 218)~~

~~Create a list for each of the following powers in our government using the chart on page 210:~~

~~National or Enumerated Powers~~

~~State or Reserved Powers~~

~~Concurrent or Shared Powers~~