



## Teaching Youth America's Legacy of Liberty

### **Lesson Title: Constitution Basics**

This lesson supports the Constitution program (field trip) to the American Village and correlates to the Alabama High School Course of Study.

### **Introduction:**

The Constitution of the United States of America was written at a convention held in Philadelphia in 1787. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is celebrated on September 17 to commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of the land and to celebrate and honor the privileges and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States of America.

This lesson is appropriate to use anytime during the month of September and specifically prior to attending the American Village Constitution program. In this lesson, students will have a better understanding of the significance of the Constitution, the basic principles and rights provided by the Constitution and the key issues at the Constitutional Convention.

### **Objectives:**

In this lesson students will:

Describe the Constitution as the plan of government for the United States

Identify basic concepts of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Explain the key issues at the Constitutional Convention

Construct a profile of the average delegate at the Constitutional Convention

### **Materials:**

Teacher Notes

Copy of the Constitution

The Constitution Game

Constitution Search

**Strategy:**

1. Begin the lesson by asking students to brainstorm (in groups or as a class), what they know about the Constitution. Record responses on whiteboard.
2. Introduce vocabulary important to understanding the Constitution. These words can be placed on card strips around the room, written on the board, distributed on strips of paper or prepared as a handout. (Framers, Philadelphia Convention, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Constitution, Articles of Confederation, Delegates)
3. Students complete the vocabulary match game or vocabulary word find.
4. Explain to students why the Constitution of the United States was created. (see teacher notes)
5. Pose the following questions:
  - a. Did the colonies already have a Constitution? What was it?
  - b. Why, after declaring our independence in 1776, were we motivated to create a Constitution in 1787?
  - c. How was our Constitution created?
  - d. What are the components of the Constitution?
6. Complete the Constitution Search activity.

# Teacher Notes:

## Basics of the Constitution

### I. What is a Constitution?

- A. A constitution is a set of rules, laws, fundamental customs, and traditions that determine the basic way a government is organized and operated.
- B. Components of a Constitution may include:
  - 1) purposes of the government; how it is organized; how it does its business
  - 2) determinants of citizenship; rights, responsibilities, power, control over the government, etc.
- C. Many countries have a constitution (all or some of the aforementioned components), yet may not have a constitutional government.

### II. What is a Constitutional Government?

- A. Identifies the basic rights of citizens
- B. Determines who is responsible in government to protect those rights
- C. Establishes limitations on the government's use of power, use of resources, and control of conflict
- D. A true constitution can only be changed with the consent of citizens, utilizing specific procedures for making a change (amendment to the Constitution)

### III. What happened to the Articles of Confederation?

- A. The Articles of Confederation were our country's first Constitution.
- B. It was not an adequate form of government for our new status as an independent country. (Alexander Hamilton and James Madison were particularly dissatisfied with the government under the Articles of Confederation)

### IV. How was our Constitution Created?

- A. A number of prominent leaders suggested a meeting of representatives of all the states.
- B. Two major plans were brought to the floor of the convention

- 1) The Massachusetts Plan
  - a. Favored the smaller states
  - b. Equal representation per state
- 2) The Virginia Plan
  - a. Favored the larger states
  - b. Representation based on state population
- C. Massachusetts was the first state to hold a constitutional convention.
- D. James Madison and others believed that if a convention could be used at the state level, it was worth trying at the national level.
- E. The Great Compromise, presented by Roger Sherman of Connecticut saved the Constitutional Convention resulting in equal representation in the Senate and representation by population in the House of Representatives
- F. The 3/5 Compromise dealt with heavily populated slave states who wanted to count slaves in their population count, but not for tax purposes. The compromise results were that every slave would be counted as 3/5 of a person in the population count.
- G. The Confederation Congress called the meeting in Philadelphia but only authorized the delegates to amend the Articles, **NOT** to develop a new Constitution! Yet, that is exactly what they did.
- H. Fifty-five delegates from twelve states (Rhode Island declined to send delegated) attended the meeting, known as the Philadelphia Convention.
  - 1) These delegates are often called the FRAMERS of the Constitution.
  - 2) All men, white, fairly young (average age was forty-two).
  - 3) It was a quality group – most had served in the American Revolution; about three-fourths has served in Congress and some were wealthy (most were not).
  - 4) The delegates agreed that each state would have one vote at the Convention.
  - 5) The “framers” decided the business of the meeting should be kept secret.
  - 6) The delegates immediately voted to write a new Constitution. It was written in 1787.

#### **V. What does the Constitution do and say?**

- A. It provides a plan for the protection of individual rights, with the inclusion of the Bill of Rights; it provides a structure for fair treatment and sets forth the ideals that help people live in peace and harmony
- B. The Bill of Rights
  - 1) These ten amendments represent the first changes to the Constitution
  - 2) These amendments were ratified effective December 15, 1791 (the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787)
- C. Article V established a fair procedure for changing the law by creating a procedure for adding amendments to the Constitution
- D. It created the legislative branch/Congress (Senate and House of Representatives) which makes the law.

- E. The executive branch (President) enforces the law.
- F. The judicial branch (Courts) interprets the law.
- G. There are Seven Articles in the Constitution; 27 amendments; only one amendment has been repealed. (# 18)
- H. To amend the Constitution requires a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress and approval of 3/4 of the state legislatures.

The Constitution of the United States of America was written at a convention held in Philadelphia in 1787. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is celebrated on September 17 to commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of the land and to celebrate and honor the privileges and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States of America.

Public Law 108-477 requires that all schools receiving federal funds hold an educational program for their students on September 17 of each year.

## Constitution Basics

Match the following with the correct response/statement by drawing a line from the correct statement to the correct letter.

The Constitution was written in \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Legislative

The men who wrote the Constitution were called \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Executive

A change to the Constitution is known as an \_\_\_\_\_.

C. 13<sup>th</sup> amendment

The document that insures the protection of individual rights is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Supreme Court

The amendment that gave women the right to vote is the \_\_\_\_\_.

E. Judicial

Slavery was made illegal by the \_\_\_\_\_ amendment.

F. Framers

The branch of government that makes law is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

G. Amendment

The branch of government that interprets the law is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

H. 19<sup>th</sup> amendment

The branch of government that insures that laws are carried out is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

I. 1787

The highest court of appeal is the \_\_\_\_\_.

J. Bill of Rights

# Teacher Notes:

## Basics of a Three-Part Government

### I. Why did the delegates choose a three branch system of government?

- A. To ensure a strong, cohesive central government (the Articles of Confederation had not been structured to do this), yet maintain some powers to the states.
- B. To provide a system of checks and balances to ensure that no individual or group would become too powerful
- C. To protect personal liberty

### II. What are the three branches of Government?

A. The Legislative Branch is known as The United States Congress (Article I of the Constitution). It is divided into two chambers.

#### 1) House of Representatives

- a. Representatives are apportioned to each state based on population
- b. Representatives are elected to terms of 2 years
- c. Representatives must be at least 25 years of age; a US citizen for 7 years and live in the state they represent
- d. All revenue (tax) bills must originate in the House
- e. The House has the sole power to impeach (charge) federal government officials, to determine if they should be tried before the Senate for possible crimes committed against the country

#### 2) Senate

- a. Equal representation – 2 Senators per state
- b. Senators are elected to a term of 6 years
- c. Senators must be at least 30 years of age; a US citizen for 9 years and live in the state they represent
- d. Senators must approve or reject treaties the president makes with other nations

- e. Senators must approve or reject certain Presidential appointments, including all Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet officers and Ambassadors
  - f. Senators hold trial for government officials who are impeached (charged) by the House.
- 3) Powers of Congress
- a. To impose taxes
  - b. To declare war
  - c. To borrow and appropriate money
  - d. To regulate commerce
  - e. To make all laws necessary to carry out the Constitution
- B. The Executive Branch is the President of the United States (Article II of the Constitution)
- 1) The President is elected to a four year term and may be elected for two terms
  - 2) The President must be at least 35 years of age and a natural born citizen of the United States
  - 3) Powers of the President
    - a. Enforces the laws of the United States
    - b. Commander-in-Chief of the Military
    - c. Has power to make treaties with the consent of the Senate
    - d. Appoints Supreme Court, Cabinet officers and Ambassadors with the consent of the Senate
- C. The Judicial Branch is the Supreme Court of the United States (Article III of the Constitution)
- 1) The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land; judges are appointed by the President for life and must be approved by the Senate
  - 2) The Court is made up of nine justices, including the Chief Justice
  - 3) All lower courts are created by Congress and are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate
  - 4) Powers of the Courts
    - a. Oversees all cases under Federal laws passed by Congress
    - b. Has the power of “judicial review” to interpret the laws passed by Congress and determine whether they comply with the Constitution



# 3-Part Government

The diagram consists of a light blue rectangular area containing three identical columns. Each column is composed of a white rectangular box at the top and a white hexagonal box below it. The boxes are arranged in a row, with a small gap between each column. The entire diagram is set against a light blue background.

**Fill in the rectangles with the name of the branch of government.  
List the powers given to each branch in the hexagon and the titles/persons  
included in that branch.**

## **The American Village: Teaching Youth America's Legacy of Liberty**

### **Lesson Title: The Preamble to the Constitution**

**Introduction:** An important part of the student's role as a citizen is to understand the founding documents of our democracy. Understanding the Preamble is imperative because it provides the vision for the government, explains who is forming the government (We the People), and explains why (in order to form a more perfect union.)

**Background Information:** The oldest federal constitution in existence was framed by a convention of delegates from 12 of the 13 original states in Philadelphia in May 1787. Rhode Island did not send a delegate. The founding fathers felt a need for an organized government after we broke away from Britain in order to prevent chaos. George Washington presided over the session, which lasted until September 17, 1787. The draft (originally a preamble and seven Articles) was submitted to all 13 states and was to become effective when ratified by 9 states. It went into effect on the first Wednesday in March 1789, after it was ratified by the 9<sup>th</sup> state, New Hampshire. James Madison is credited with much of the research and writing of the constitution. He wrote a letter later in life that stated, "no government can be perfect, so that which is the least imperfect is therefore the best government." The government created by the Constitutional Convention aptly fits that description. The Preamble set out the goals for the new government.

**Objectives:** In this lesson, students will

- analyze the language and meaning of the Preamble
- demonstrate an understanding of the words and phrases by working in cooperative groups to paraphrase the Preamble
- will practice and be able to recite the Preamble
- will work in cooperative groups to write a class Constitution.

### **Materials and Resources:**

- A copy of the Preamble to use as an overhead/slide or poster
- Laminated phrases of the Preamble.
  - We the People of the United States
  - In Order to form a more perfect Union
  - Establish Justice

- Insure domestic Tranquility
- Provide for the common defence \*(original spelling)
- Promote the general Welfare
- And secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
- Dictionaries for each group
- Chart paper & markers
- School House Rock: The Preamble  
<http://www.schooltube.com/video/03f9c858260a4da9b582/>
- *We the Kids* by David Catrow is an excellent resource for younger students.
- Poster board
- <http://www.gamequarium.org/cgi-bin/search/linfo.cgi?id=3840>
- Preamble website for Schoolhouse Rock Preamble



**Strategy:**

1. Display the Preamble, and read it aloud.
2. Tell the students that the Preamble is the introduction to the Constitution of the United States. It outlines some of the ways our government functions.
3. Explain that language was very different in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and their job will be to examine phrases from the Preamble and write them in the language of today.
4. Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a laminated phrase of the Preamble, a dictionary, a sheet of chart paper and markers. Each group should then rewrite each phrase.
5. When each group has completed their section, have a member of the group read their interpretation of each phrase in the correct order.
6. Direct students to compare each phrase to its 21<sup>st</sup> century translation. Ask if they agree or disagree with the translation?
7. Fasten the translated phrases to the wall.
8. Have the students read the Preamble in unison several times.
9. Challenge them to memorize it, by speaking or singing the song from School House Rock.
10. Using the translations posted on the wall, have the students brainstorm and create a classroom constitution that can be used for the rest of the school year. Point out that the class is a group

of people who must work together, like our states. Suggest that they need rules to follow in order to be successful.

11. Work together to write the Class Constitution of the poster board. Each student and the teacher should sign the finished product. Post it in the room for referral throughout the year.

**Sample Constitution:**

We the students of \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School, Room 13a, in order to have a more perfect class, promise to work together to become a united team, promoting peace and harmony at all times.

We will respect each other, always being considerate of other people's feelings and will protect their property.

We will be cooperative and polite, taking turns to listen to one another's ideas and affirming others for their accomplishments.

We will be mindful of the classroom as a place to learn, so we will help one another learn and will complete our assignments to the best of our abilities.

We will actively participate in class and work independently or cooperatively in a group when an assignment is presented.

We will keep our room organized and clean and will help our teacher and other students to maintain the work centers as well as our individual desks and classroom.

We will practice safety rules and move throughout the building quietly when walking to other spaces in our school.

We pledge to contribute to the success of our year at \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School, and will do our best to make this a positive learning, working and playing experience for each individual in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade.

Signed by the teacher and each member of the class:

**Lesson Extension:**

Have each group create a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the Preamble.

Create a Preamble quilt. Divide the class into eight groups; seven groups will create quilt squares representing the phrases of the Preamble. The last group will create the heading, border and design of the display. This group may also use 3D materials to enhance the display, i.e. small flags on each corner of the board; a quill; pictures of the founders etc.

## Preamble Activity

### Directions:

1. Laminate the Preamble and cut the words into phrases.
2. Select one or more students (3-5 students per phrase) to “read” in choral fashion each phrase of the Preamble.
3. Place the students at different points in the room (some may even be turned toward the wall).
4. Allow students to “rehearse” several times as they produce a meaningful and inspirational presentation of the Preamble. Encourage students to enunciate clearly, to vary the pitch, tone and speed of the Preamble, and to present the Preamble as a “choral” production.
5. The students may choose in some way to enhance this presentation, e.g. to put music behind it, for students to do an interpretive dance to the phrases – allow them to be creative.

We the People of the United States

in order to form a more perfect union,

establish justice,

insure domestic tranquility,

provide for the common defense,

promote the general welfare,

and secure the blessings of liberty  
to ourselves and our posterity,

do ordain and establish this Constitution  
for the United States of America.

# Key Principles of the Constitution

Match the following principles of the Constitution with the correct descriptor.

(Write the correct letter to the left of the word)

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ Delegated Power            | a. Suffrage for 18 yr. olds   |
| _____ People Power               | b. Document that establishes the organization and operation of a government |
| _____ Separate and equal         | c. Makes Laws   |
| _____ Bill of Rights             | d. Republic   |
| _____ Legislative Branch         | e. The right to vote  |
| _____ Judicial Branch            | f. Branches of Government   |
| _____ Executive Branch           | g. Power belongs to the people  |
| _____ Self-governed              | h. Senate   |
| _____ 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment | i. Enforces the Law   |
| _____ Ratification               | j. First Ten Amendments   |
| _____ Suffrage                   | k. House of Representatives   |
| _____ 26 <sup>th</sup> Amendment | l. Protection against arbitrary deprivation of life, liberty, property      |
| _____ Constitution               | m. Interprets the Law   |
| _____ Democracy                  | n. Formal approval of the US Constitution by the states                     |
| _____ Due Process                | o. Women's Suffrage   |



## The Constitution Game

The following activity was developed by Rennie G. Quible, National Archives and Records Administration Volunteer Docent, as an introduction to a unit on the Constitution.

**Objective:** To describe how the members of the Constitutional Convention might have felt as they gathered and began the arduous and memorable task of writing the United States Constitution.

### Materials Needed:

- Envelopes containing 1 die
- 12 paper clips
- The following instructions:

### INSTRUCTIONS

**It's time to play a little game.  
No two groups will play the same.  
What and how is up to you.  
The group must choose what it will do.  
Use the things that you find here.  
It won't take long, you need not fear  
In six short minutes you'll share your fame  
By telling how you played your game.**

### Procedure:

1. Arrange students into groups of three or four.
2. Distribute one prepared envelope to each group, instructing participants to wait for a signal to open them.
3. Instruct the student to follow the instruction contained in the envelope. Caution them to remember how they feel as they follow the instructions...
4. Give the signal to begin. The word "archives" works well as a signal.
5. Circulate around the room, and remind students to remember how they are feeling as they play the game. When students ask what they are to do, simply say, "Follow the instructions you found in the envelope."
6. After 6 minutes, instruct students to stop the game.
7. Ask a spokesperson from each group to describe the game they devised, and how they felt as they played. Some of their remarks might include the following: we were confused; we thought it was dumb, we did not know what to do, or we were excited about getting to make it up as we went along.

8. List responses on the board.
9. After all groups have reported, begin describing the Constitutional Convention: In May of 1787, outstanding citizens from 12 states gathered in Philadelphia. They planned to be there only a little while. They had come to improve the Articles of Confederation and try to create more unity and cooperation among the states. Rhode Island sent no representatives.
10. How did those men feel that May? (Read the responses the students offered in reference to their feelings toward the game.)
11. Today, you used 12 paper clips. They represent the patriots who came from the 12 states. The die represents luck and each day that rolled around from May 25 to September 17. You figured out how to play the game, they figured out how to write our Constitution. And while they went about the great task of writing the United States constitution, they probably felt much the same as you did today.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/game.html>

## Constitution Search

Directions: Give each student a copy of the Constitution (courtesy of Congressman Spencer Bachus). Allow time for the student to read and find the answers to the following questions. This can be done as a class race (who finishes first) or as an assignment (take home).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Preambles
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Articles
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of amendments ratified in 1791 that make up the Bill of Rights
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of total amendments
5. Article I discusses the Legislative branch of the government. What are the names of the two houses that make up the Legislative branch?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. According to Article II, who has the job of enforcing the laws? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In Article III, who has the job of interpreting or explaining the laws? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Constitution provides for how many branches of government? \_\_\_\_\_
9. According to Article V, changing the Constitution is called \_\_\_\_\_
10. Amendment \_\_\_\_\_ says that you can vote when you are 18 years of age.
11. Search Article II to see what qualifications a person must have to become President of the United States.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[A note to the reader: the following text is a copy of the original spelling and punctuation of the Constitution.]

## PREAMBLE

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article. I.

### Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

### Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons [Modified by Amendment XIV]. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

### Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof [Modified by Amendment XVII], for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second

Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies [Modified by Amendment XVII].

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

### Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December [Modified by Amendment XX], unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

### Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

#### Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States [Limited by Amendment XXVII]. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

#### Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

#### Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; —And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

#### Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

## Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection Laws; and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

## Article. II.

### Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; a quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President [Modified by Amendment XII].

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.



In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected [Modified by Amendment XXV].

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

### Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

### Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

### Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

## **Article. III.**

### **Section. 1.**

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

### **Section. 2.**

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;

- to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;
- to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;
- to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;
- to Controversies between two or more States;
- between a State and Citizens of another State [Modified by Amendment XI];
- between Citizens of different States;
- between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

### **Section. 3.**

Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

## **Article. IV.**

### **Section. 1.**

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

## Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour; but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due [Modified by Amendment XIII].

## Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

## Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

## Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

## Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

## Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth.

In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

Go. WASHINGTON—Presidt.  
and deputy from Virginia

### New Hampshire

JOHN LANGDON  
NICHOLAS GILMAN

### Massachusetts

NATHANIEL GORHAM  
RUFUS KING

### Connecticut

WM. SAML. JOHNSON  
ROGER SHERMAN

### New York

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

### New Jersey

WIL. LIVINGSTON  
DAVID BREARLEY.  
WM. PATERSON.  
JONA. DAYTON

### Pennsylvania

B FRANKLIN  
THOMAS MIFFLIN  
ROBT MORRIS  
GEO. CLYMER  
THOS. FITZ SIMONS  
JARED INGERSOLL  
JAMES WILSON  
GOUV MORRIS

### Delaware

GEO. READ  
GUNNING BEDFORD jun

JOHN DICKINSON

RICHARD BASSETT

JACO. BROOM

### Maryland

JAMES MCHENRY  
DAN OF ST THOS. JENIFER  
DANL CARROLL

### Virginia

JOHN BLAIR  
JAMES MADISON

### North Carolina

WM. BLOUNT  
RICHD. DOBBS SPAIGHT  
HU WILLIAMSON  
J. RUTLEDGE

### South Carolina

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY  
CHARLES PINCKNEY  
PIERCE BUTLER

### Georgia

WILLIAM FEW  
ABR BALDWIN

In Convention Monday, September 17th, 1787.

Present: The States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, MR. Hamilton from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Resolved, That the preceeding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that it is the Opinion of this Convention, that it should afterwards be submitted to a Convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the People thereof, under the Recommendation of its Legislature, for their Assent and Ratification; and that each Convention assenting to, and ratifying the Same, should give Notice thereof to the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Convention, that as soon as the Conventions of nine States shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States in Congress assembled should fix a Day on which Electors should be appointed by the States which have ratified the same, and a Day on which the Electors should assemble to vote for the President, and the Time and Place for commencing Proceedings under this Constitution.

That after such Publication the Electors should be appointed, and the Senators and Representatives elected: That the Electors should meet on the Day fixed for the Election of the President, and should transmit their Votes certified, signed, sealed and directed, as the Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, that the Senators and Representatives should convene at the Time and Place assigned; that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate, for the sole purpose of receiving, opening and counting the Votes for President; and, that after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President, should, without Delay, proceed to execute this Constitution.

By the Unanimous Order of the Convention

Go. WASHINGTON—Presidt.

Attest William Jackson—Secy

## AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

### Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment II

A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

## **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

## **Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

## **Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

## **Amendment VII**

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

## **Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## **Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## **Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

## **Amendment XI**

(Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795)

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

## **Amendment XII**

(This Amendment altered Article 2, Section 1, Part 2 — Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified July 27, 1804)

The Electors shall meet in their respective States and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; - The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the [fourth day of March] next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. (The words in brackets were superseded by Amendment XX)

The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such numbers be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

### **Amendment XIII**

(Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.)

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XIV**

(Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868)

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.
3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or Elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.
4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.
5. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.



### **Amendment XV**

(Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.)

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XVI**

(Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.)

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever sources derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

### **Amendment XVII**

(Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.)

1. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures.
2. When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the Legislature of any State may empower the Executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the Legislature may direct.
3. This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

### **Amendment XVIII**

(Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Altered by Amendment XXI.)

1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.
2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the Legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

### **Amendment XIX**

(Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.)

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XX**

(This Amendment altered Article 1, Section 4, Part 2, and Article 2, Section 1, Part 5; Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.)

1. The terms of the President and the Vice-President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.
2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.
3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice-President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice-President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice-President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice-President shall have qualified.
4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice-President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.
5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article (October 1933).
6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

### **Amendment XXI**

(Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.)

1. The Eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

### **Amendment XXII**

(Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.)

1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more that two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more that once.

2. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

### **Amendment XXIII**

(Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.)

1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

2. A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and preform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

3. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XXIV**

(This Amendment altered Article 1, Section 2, Part 3; Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.)

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or any other tax.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XXV**

(This Amendment altered Article 2, Section 1, Part 5; Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.)

1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.
2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take the office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.
3. Whenever the President transmits to the President Pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.
4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmits to the President Pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.
5. Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President Pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmits within four days to the President Pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

### **Amendment XXVI**

(This Amendment altered Article 1, Section 9, Part 4; Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified June 30, 1971.)

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XXVII**

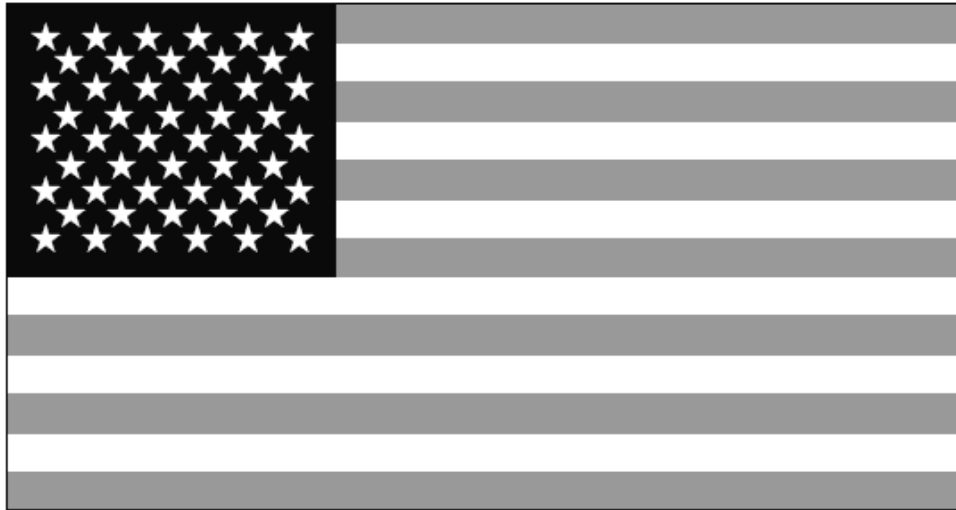
(This Amendment altered Article 1 Section 3 Part 1 and Article 1 Section 3 Part 2; Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.)

No law, varying the compensation for services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

# The Republic For Which It Stands

Each day we pledge our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America:

*"I pledge allegiance to the Flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*



## Just what is the American Republic?

Perhaps it's best to understand the American Republic by looking first at three forms of government: a monarchy, a dictatorship (or totalitarian form), and a democracy.

In a monarchy, the power to govern is held by a king or queen. In old times it was thought it was the divine (or God-given) right and responsibility of the king or queen to rule. In this form, as a king dies, the royal crown passes to his or her oldest child. The people have no fundamental rights under a pure monarchy, other than the duty of the monarch to care for his or her people.

In a dictatorship or a totalitarian form of government, power is held absolutely by a dictator or a small group. Regardless of the title of the dictator (he may use the term president, general, ruling junta, or other term), power is totally vested in this leader or small group of leaders. Generally fear, intimidation, and military force are used to keep the dictator in power.

In a democracy, power belongs to the people. A majority of people decide everything. Power is held by the people, and whatever a majority agree to is the rule. It is easy to see that in a city, state, or a country, having a pure democracy is not possible. For example, everyone cannot meet in the same place to make a decision. That is why most “democratic” forms of government really are indirect democracies, where voters elect representatives and officers who then exercise power.

The founders of our country referred to our form of government as a Republic. Our Republic is a form of a representative democracy, with important distinguishing features. **First**, it acknowledges individual liberty. It is based on the view that political power is vested in the people, and only in certain cases is that power delegated to government by the people. **Secondly**, it is based on the rule of law, the cornerstone of which is the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Third, it is a union of states — the thirteen original colonies which came together after the American Revolution and others created since. **Finally**, our Republic utilizes representative democracy. That is, we hold elections regularly, our officials are elected and hold office for certain terms, and they are accountable to the voters. In our Republic there are several important “checks” or restraints on the power of a majority; in our system the rights of minority points of view are protected as well under our Constitution.

Thus as we pledge allegiance to the Flag, and to this Republic, we are acknowledging what George Washington called an “experiment” in self-government to preserve “the sacred fire of liberty.” To be a voter in our American Republic is an important privilege and responsibility.

# The Republic for Which It Stands

## Word Awareness Chart

Students will record their understanding of each of the words studied prior to our visit to the American Village. At the completion of the field trip, students should be able to construct a complete and accurate definition of each word.

WORDS	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Republic					
Monarchy					
Totalitarian					
Democracy					
Patriots					
Sovereign					
Loyalists					
Articles of Confederation					
Effigy					



## Character Find: Getting to Know the Framers of the Constitution

Divide the students into small groups (3-5 students per group). Give each group a picture of the signing of the Constitution and give each student the outline of the picture depicting the delegates.

Locate the founding father from the Howard Chandler Christy picture of the Signing of the Constitution. Note the names and identify the individual by number and the state which they represented.

1. Find the youngest gentleman at the Constitutional Convention. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Find the oldest gentleman at the Constitutional Convention. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Find the writer of the Constitution. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Find the President of the Convention. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Find the delegate who authored the Great Compromise which possibly saved the Constitutional Convention. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Find the delegate who represented the yeoman farmer. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Find the Secretary of the Treasury of the Convention. # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Find and name the four men with upraised hands. #\_\_\_\_, #\_\_\_\_, #\_\_\_\_, #\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

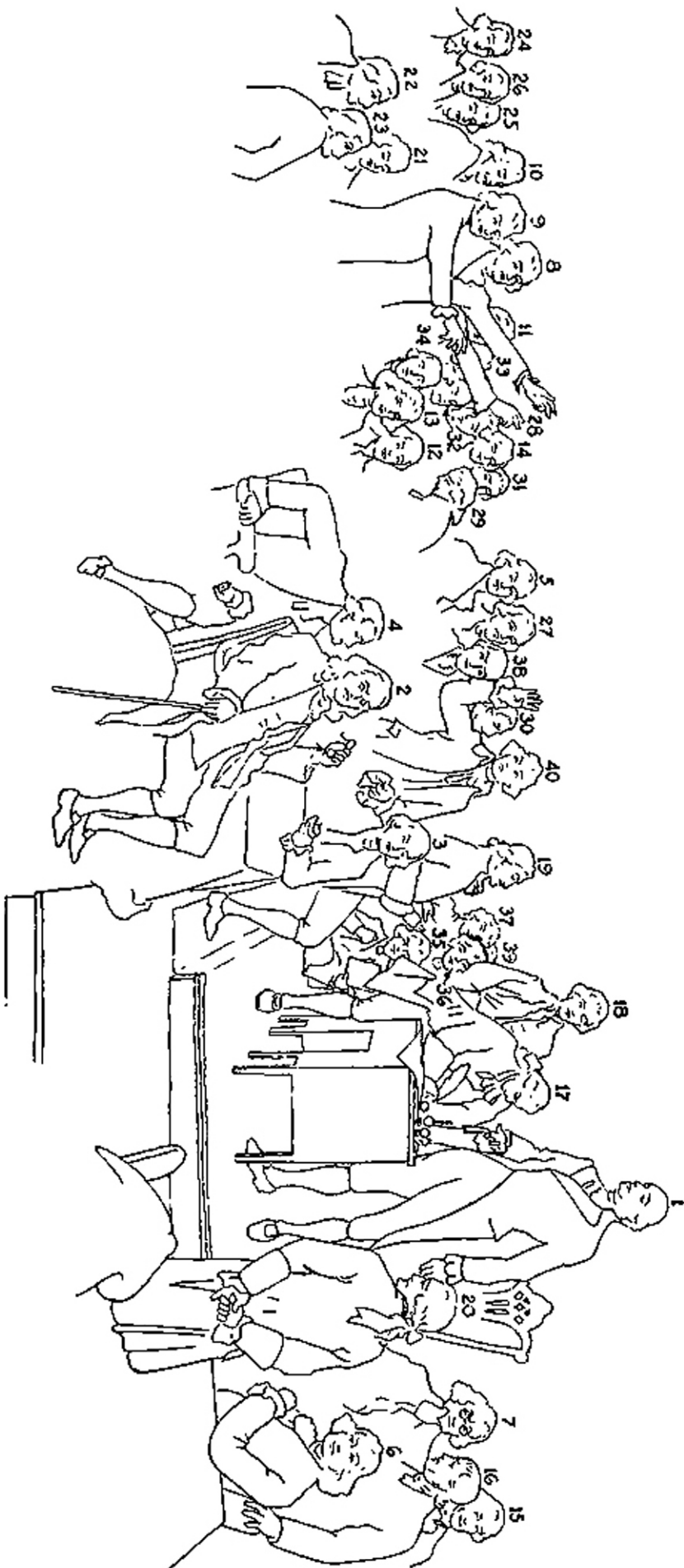
9. Find and name the person who appears to be signing the/a document. #\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Find the person largely responsible for the “wording” of the Constitution. #\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_.

# SCENE AT THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES



1. Washington, George, Va.
2. Franklin, Benjamin, Pa.
3. Madison, James, Va.
4. Hamilton, Alexander, N.Y.
5. Morris, Gouverneur, Pa.
6. Morris, Robert, Pa.
7. Wilson, James, Pa.
8. Pinckney, Chas, Cotesworth, S.C.
9. Pinckney, Chas, S.C.
10. Rutledge, John, S.C.
11. Butler, Pierce, S.C.
12. Sherman, Roger, Conn.
13. Johnson, William Samuel, Conn.
14. McHenry, James, Md.
15. Read, George, Del.
16. Bassett, Richard, Del.
17. Spaight, Richard Dobbs, N.C.
18. Blount, William, N.C.
19. Williamson, Hugh, N.C.
20. Jenifer, Daniel of St. Thomas, Md.
21. King, Rufus, Mass.
22. Gorham, Nathaniel, Mass.
23. Dayton, Jonathan, N.J.
24. Carroll, Daniel, Md.
25. Few, William, Ga.
26. Baldwin, Abraham, Ga.
27. Langdon, John, N.H.
28. Gilman, Nicholas, N.H.
29. Livingston, William, N.J.
30. Paterson, William, N.J.
31. Mifflin, Thomas, Pa.
32. Clymer, George, Pa.
33. FitzSimons, Thomas, Pa.
34. Ingersoll, Jared, Pa.
35. Bedford, Gunning, Jr., Del.
36. Brearley, David, N.J.
37. Dickinson, John, Del.
38. Blair, John, Va.
39. Broom, Jacob, Del.
40. Jackson, William, Secretary

## What does the Constitution Mean by...?

**Directions:** Instruct students to define each of the following. Look up terms you do not understand in the dictionary. Then, in your own words, write what you think the Framers were saying.

1. What does it mean by “establish justice?”
2. What does it mean by “insure domestic tranquility?”
3. What does it mean by “provide for the common defense?”
4. What does it mean by “promote the general welfare?”
5. What does it mean by “secure the blessings of Liberty?”

Outcomes:

Who are the framers?

Interesting Facts:

When:

Where:

Why:

## The Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention took place in the Assembly Room where both The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States were adopted. The room's focal point is the "Rising Sun Chair" where George Washington sat during the debates on the adoption of The Constitution.



## Timeline to Ratification of the Constitution

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
1786/08/29	Shay's Rebellion begins	
09/11	Annapolis Convention convenes	
09/14	Annapolis Convention adjourns; calling for a convention the following	
1787/02/03	Shay's Rebellion ends	
02/21	Congress approves a convention to amend the Articles	
05/03	James Madison arrives early for the convention	
05/13	George Washington arrives for the convention	
05/25	Constitutional Convention opens	
05/29	Edmund Randolph presents the Virginia Plan; Charles Pinckney presents his plan	
05/31	Representation debated	
06/01	Executive power debated	
06/06	Selection of representatives debated	
06/07	Selection of senators debated	
06/11	Roger Sherman proposes the Great compromise	

06/15	William Patterson proposes the New Jersey plan	
06/18	Alexander Hamilton proposes the British Plan	
06/21	Federalism debated	
06/26	Senatorial terms debated	
07/17	Executive term debated	
07/21	Debate on appointment of judges	
07/23	Method of ratification discussed; Committee of Detail established	
07/26	Committee of Detail meets	
08/06	Committee of Detail submits rough draft of Constitution	
08/15	Executive Veto Power debated	
08/21	Slavery in the Constitution debated	
09/08	Committee of Style established	
09/10	Amendment procedure debated	
09/12	Inclusion of Bill of Rights debated/Committee of Style submits draft	
09/17	Final draft of the Constitution signed	
09/28	Congress approves the Constitution and sends it to the states	
10/05	First Centinel Anti-Federalist letter published	
10/27	First Federalist Paper is published	
12/07	Delaware ratifies the Constitution	
1788/03/24	Rhode Island referendum rejects the Constitution	
05/28	The Federalist published	

06/21	Constitution ratified	
1789/03/04	Constitution goes into effect as the law of the land	
1790/05/29	Rhode Island ratifies	



# Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution

The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world."

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Of the spelling errors in the Constitution, "Pensylvania" above the signers' names is probably the most glaring.

Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the Convention, where he served as the U.S. minister. John Adams was serving as the U.S. minister to Great Britain during the Constitutional Convention and did not attend either.

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The Constitution was "penned" by Jacob Shallus, A Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, for \$30 (\$661 today).

Since 1952, the Constitution has been on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Currently, all four pages are displayed behind protective glass framed with titanium. To preserve the parchment's quality, the cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40 percent.

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Constitution Day is celebrated on September 17, the anniversary of the day the framers signed the document.

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The Constitution does not set forth requirements for the right to vote. As a result, at the outset of the Union, only male property-owners could vote. African Americans were not considered citizens, and women were excluded from the electoral process. Native Americans were not given the right to vote until 1924.

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James Madison, "the father of the Constitution," was the first to arrive in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. He arrived in February, three months before the convention began, bearing the blueprint for the new Constitution.

Of the forty-two delegates who attended most of the meetings, thirty-nine actually signed the Constitution. Edmund Randolph and George Mason of Virginia and Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts refused to sign due in part due to the lack of a bill of rights.

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When it came time for the states to ratify the Constitution, the lack of any bill of rights was the primary sticking point.

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The Great Compromise saved the Constitutional Convention, and, probably, the Union. Authored by Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman, it called for proportional representation in the House, and one representative per state in the Senate (this was later changed to two.) The compromise passed 5-to-4, with one state, Massachusetts, "divided."

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Patrick Henry was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but declined, because he "smelt a rat."

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Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.

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Gouverneur Morris was largely responsible for the "wording" of the Constitution, although there was a Committee of Style formed in September 1787.

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The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).

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When the Constitution was signed, the United States' population was 4 million. It is now more than 300 million. Philadelphia was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants.

A proclamation by President George Washington and a congressional resolution established the first national Thanksgiving Day on November 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give “thanks” for the new Constitution.

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The first time the formal term “The United States of America” was used was in the Declaration of Independence.

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It took one hundred days to actually “frame” the Constitution.

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There was initially a question as to how to address the President. The Senate proposed that he be addressed as “His Highness the President of the United States of America and Protector of their Liberties.” Both the House of Representatives and the Senate compromised on the use of “President of the United States.”

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James Wilson originally proposed the President be chosen by popular vote, but the delegates agreed (after 60 ballots) on a system known as the Electoral College. Although there have been 500 proposed amendments to change it, this “indirect” system of electing the president is still intact.

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George Washington and James Madison were the only presidents who signed the Constitution.

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In November of 1788 the Congress of the Confederation adjourned and left the United States without a central government until April 1789. That is when the first Congress under the new Constitution convened with its first quorum.

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James Madison was the only delegate to attend every meeting. He took detailed notes of the various discussions and debates that took place during the convention. The journal that he kept during the Constitutional Convention was kept secret until after he died. It (along with other papers) was purchased by the government in 1837 at a price of \$30,000 (that would be \$591,000 today). The journal was published in 1840.

Although Benjamin Franklin’s mind remained active, his body was deteriorating. He was in constant pain because of gout and having a stone in his bladder, and he could barely walk. He would enter the convention hall in a sedan chair carried by four prisoners from the Walnut Street jail in Philadelphia.

---

As Benjamin Franklin left the Pennsylvania State House after the final meeting of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, he was approached by the wife of the mayor of Philadelphia. She was curious as to what the new government would be. Franklin replied, “A republic, madam. If you can keep it.”

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On March 24, 1788, a popular election was held in Rhode Island to determine the ratification status of the new Constitution. The vote was 237 in favor and 2,945 opposed!

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The members of the first Congress of the United States included 54 who were delegates to the Constitutional Convention or delegates to the various state-ratifying conventions. The number also included 7 delegates who opposed ratification.

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Benjamin Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at the age of 84. The 20,000 mourners at his funeral on April 21, 1790, constituted the largest public gathering up to that time.

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Vermont ratified the Constitution on January 10, 1791, even though it had not yet become a state.

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The word “democracy” does not appear once in the Constitution.

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There was a proposal at the Constitutional Convention to limit the standing army for the country to 5,000 men. George Washington sarcastically agreed with this proposal as long as a stipulation was added that no invading army could number more than 3,000 troops!

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As evidence of its continued flexibility, the Constitution has only been changed seventeen times since 1791!

John Adams referred to the Constitution as “the greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever seen” and George Washington wrote to the Marquis de Lafayette that “It (the Constitution) appears to me, then, little short of a miracle.”

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The Pennsylvania State House (where the Constitutional Convention took place) was where George Washington was appointed the commander of the Continental Army in 1775 and where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. It was also where the Articles of Confederation were adopted as our first constitution in 1781.

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Rhode Island was the only state not to send delegates to Philadelphia in 1787. At that time the state legislature was controlled by the agrarian party and was fearful that a stronger central government would demand that debts be paid in specie (hard money). It was the last state to ratify the Constitution on May 29, 1790 (over a year after President George Washington’s inauguration) by a vote of 34-32.

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The delegates were involved in debates from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. six days a week with only a 10 day break during the duration of the convention

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The Constitution contains 4,543 words, including the signatures and has four sheets, 28-3/4 inches by 23-5/8 inches each. It contains 7,591 words including the 27 amendments.

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The Constitution was ratified by specially elected conventions beginning in December 1787. The order in which the thirteen states accepted the new constitution was Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island.

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Daniel Webster (1782-1852), of Massachusetts, has been called the “Expounder of the Constitution”.

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From 1804 to 1865 there were no amendments added to the Constitution until the end of the Civil War when the Thirteenth amendment was added that abolished slavery. This was the longest period in American history in which there were no changes to our Constitution.

The text of the Constitution was printed by John Dunlap and David Claypoole in Philadelphia to then be sent to the various state constitutional conventions for debate and discussion.

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The main reason for the meeting in Philadelphia was to revise the Articles of Confederation. However, the delegates soon concluded that it would be necessary to write an entirely new Constitution. They agreed to conduct the meetings in secrecy by stationing guards at the door to the Pennsylvania state house. When one delegate dropped a convention document, Chairman George Washington replied, “I must entreat the gentlemen to be more careful, lest our transactions get into the newspapers and disturb the public repose.”

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At the time of the Constitutional Convention Philadelphia was the most modern city in America and the largest city in North America. It had a population of 40,000 people, 7,000 street lamps, 33 churches, 10 newspapers, and a university.

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The median age in America by the end of the 18th century was 16 years of age (today it is around 34 years of age), 19 of every 20 citizens lived on the land, and 70% of the land was worked by its owners (30% by tenants).

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The national government spent \$4.3 million during the first session of Congress from 1789-1791. During the last year that George Washington was President of the United States (1796-1797), the entire cost of running the federal government was \$5,727,000.

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The election of George Washington as the first President under the Constitution was not really “unanimous”. In actuality, two electors from Virginia and two electors from Maryland did not vote. New York was entitled to eight electoral votes but the state legislature could not decide how these electors would be chosen, so the state of New York officially did not vote for the President. The electoral vote in 1789 should have totaled 81 but only 69 votes were cast.

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The only other language used in various parts of the Constitution is Latin.

James Madison of Virginia was responsible for proposing the resolution to create the various Cabinet positions within the Executive Branch of our government and twelve amendments to the Constitution of which ten became the Bill of Rights.

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Although the United States Treasury Department stopped distributing currency denominations of \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 in 1969, for all intents and purposes the production of each stopped after World War II. However, these notes are still legal tender and may be found on rare occasions in circulation. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution" is on the \$5,000 bill.

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At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin observed the symbol of a half-sun on George Washington's chair and remarked, "I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

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Benjamin Franklin made a suggestion at the Constitutional Convention that the sessions be opened with a prayer. The delegates refused to accept the motion stating that there was not enough money to hire a chaplain.

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Of the fifty-five delegates who attended the convention 34 were lawyers, 8 had signed the Declaration of Independence, and almost half were Revolutionary War veterans. The remaining members were planters, educators, ministers, physicians, financiers, judges and merchants. About a quarter of them were large land owners and all of them held some type of public office (39 were former Congressmen and 8 were present or past governors).

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William Few of Georgia was the only member to represent the yeoman farmer class which comprised the majority of the population of the country. Nineteen of the members who were chosen to represent their state never attended a meeting.

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Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was known as the "Sage of the Constitutional Convention." He was also the mediator at the convention and often counseled that "we are here to consult, not to contend".

---

George Washington and James Madison were the only Presidents who signed the Constitution.

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Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts was opposed to the office of vice president. "The close intimacy that must subsist between the President and Vice President makes it absolutely improper." However, he put his feelings aside and became Vice President under James Madison!

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When Paul Revere learned that Sam Adams and John Hancock were reluctant to offer their support for the Constitution during the ratification fight, he organized the Boston mechanics into a powerful force and worked behind the scenes for the successful approval by the Massachusetts convention.

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The term "others" is used in the Constitution to categorize ethnic minorities.

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Four of the signers of the Constitution were born in Ireland.

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John Tyler was the first Vice President to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency upon the death of William Henry Harrison in 1841. There was nothing in the Constitution that provided for the vice president to BECOME the president. Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution states that: "In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President..." The Article did not state that the vice president would BECOME the President! Tyler immediately began to refer to himself as the President with no actual Constitutional authority to do so, and every succeeding vice president in the same position did the same. It was not until the Twenty-Fifth Amendment was passed in 1967 that the vice president technically BECAME the president. This amendment legitimized Tyler's unconstitutional assumption!

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During an event to celebrate the Constitution's Sesquicentennial in 1937, Harry F. Wilhelm recited the entire document through the newly added 21st Amendment from memory. He then obtained a job in the Sesquicentennial mailroom!

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# America's Journey to Independence



## America's Timeline

1607 First permanent English settlement in \_\_\_\_\_.

1619 House of Burgesses elected and met in \_\_\_\_\_.

1620 The \_\_\_\_\_, a form of self-government.

They arrived as Englishmen; in time they became Americans.

The American Revolution has always been rooted in the promises of liberty and equality.

The first anniversary of the Pilgrims, known as \_\_\_\_\_, was a choice to give thanks, in spite of a year of adversity, starvation and disease. Many believe this choice, to be grateful for what is and build upon it, was the root of a spirit of opportunity and optimism that would mark the American experience.

Local institutions of self-government began to take root. The colonists were growing and the richness of the new country became a source of revenue for Great Britain.

By the middle of the Eighteenth Century, the debt of the French and Indian War had taken a toll on mother England.

1765, March Britain imposed the \_\_\_\_\_, which raised a chorus among the colonists of \_\_\_\_\_.

1765, October First convening of colonial representatives to discuss ways to address their grievances with the King and Parliament; this meeting was held in New York and known as the \_\_\_\_\_.

1774, May Virginia House of Burgesses dissolved by the Royal Governor; Virginians formed the \_\_\_\_\_ in its place.

1774, July Thomas Jefferson proposed a Summary View of the Rights of British America.

1774, September First Continental Congress met in \_\_\_\_\_.

1775, March Patrick Henry addressed the Virginia Convention and delivered his \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1775, April 19<sup>th</sup>. A day at Concord which came to be known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- June, 1775 Continental Congress commissioned \_\_\_\_\_ as Chief of the Continental Army.
- 1776, May Virginia Resolves (written by Patrick Henry) declared Virginia's independence from Great Britain.
- 1776, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Continental Congress signed into law the \_\_\_\_\_.
- George Washington was known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thomas Jefferson was known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Patrick Henry was known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1776, Christmas Washington won the Battle at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1783 Victory at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1787, May "Miracle of Philadelphia"; better known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1789 George Washington elected as the first President of the United States; inauguration on April 30<sup>th</sup>. In \_\_\_\_\_.

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America." Preamble, United States Constitution, 1787

## **Chronology of Events**

- **1754 – Col. George Washington and 150 Virginians defeat a French exploratory party in Pennsylvania and start the French and Indian War**
- **1760 – George III becomes the King of England**
- **1763 – The Treaty of Paris ends the Seven Years War**
- **1765 – The Stamp Act forces the colonies to pay taxes on printed matter**
- **1766 – Parliament repeals the Stamp Act**
- **1767 – Parliament passes the Townshend Act, which taxes tea and other goods**
- **1770 – Five Americans killed in the Boston Massacre**
- **1773 – The Boston Tea Party**
- **1774 – The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to protest and petition George III**
- **1775 – Battles of Lexington and Concord**
- **1775 – The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia**
- **1775 – Britain declares war on America**
- **1775 – The Battles of Breeds and Bunker hills in Boston**
- **1776 – The Declaration of Independence**
- **1776-77 – Washington crosses the frozen Delaware and captures Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey**
- **1777-78 – Winter at Valley Forge**
- **1781 – The British are defeated at Yorktown; the war is over**
- **1781 – The Articles of Confederation are adopted**
- **1783 – Britain recognizes America's independence**
- **1787 – The Constitutional Convention adopts a new Constitution**
- **1788 – The Constitution is ratified by three-quarters of the states and becomes law**
- **1789 – George Washington is elected the first President of the United States**
- **1791 – James Madison writes the first ten amendments to the Constitution – known as the Bill of Rights**