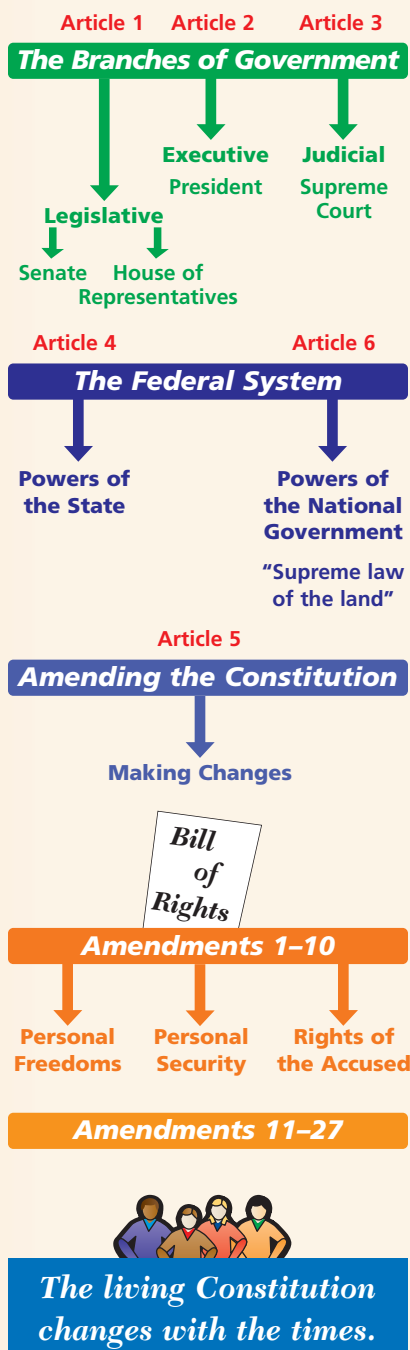


VISUAL SUMMARY

The Constitution of the United States



Constitution ASSESSMENT

VOCABULARY

Briefly explain the significance of each of the following.

- electors
- impeachment
- naturalization
- felonies
- bill of attainder
- ex post facto law
- suffrage
- due process of law
- servitude
- primary

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Make a chart like the one shown. Then fill it in with a definition of each principle and an example from the Constitution.

Principle	Definition	Example
1. popular sovereignty		
2. republicanism		
3. federalism		
4. separation of powers		
5. checks and balances		
6. limited government		
7. individual rights		

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Article 1 (pages 249–255)

- What are the requirements for becoming a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate?
- What are two military powers granted to Congress?

Article 2 (pages 256–259)

- How does the electoral college choose the president?
- What are three powers of the president?

Article 3 (pages 260–261)

- What are the two most important powers of the federal courts?

Articles 4–7 (pages 262–265)

- How can the Constitution be changed?
- If a state law and a federal law conflict, which law must be obeyed? Why?
- How was the Constitution ratified?

Bill of Rights and Amendments 11–27 (pages 266–277)

- What five freedoms are guaranteed in the First Amendment?
- Which amendments extend voting rights to a broader range of Americans?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

In a two-column chart, summarize the processes for changing the Constitution. Then use your completed chart to answer the questions below.

Proposing Amendments	Ratifying Amendments
1.	1.
2.	2.

- What role can citizens play in proposing amendments?
- What do you think are the main reasons for changing the Constitution?

2. MAKING INFERENCES

Explain how the “elastic clause” in Article 1 gives Congress the authority to take action on other issues unknown to the Framers of the Constitution.

3. ANALYZING LEADERSHIP

Think about the president’s roles described in the Constitution. What qualities does a president need to succeed as a leader in so many different areas?

4. RECOGNIZING EFFECTS

How would you describe the impact of the 14th, 15th, and 16th Amendments on life in the United States?

5. APPLYING CITIZENSHIP

Suppose you and your family go on a road trip across several states. According to Article 4 of the Constitution, what citizens’ rights do you have in the states you are visiting?

HISTORY SKILLS

INTERPRETING PRIMARY SOURCES

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a speech over the radio. He used interesting comparisons to explain how the government works.

I described the American form of government as a three-horse team provided by the Constitution to the American people so that their field might be plowed. The three horses are, of course, the three branches of government—the Congress, the Executive, and the Courts. . . . It is the American people themselves who are in the driver’s seat. It is the American people themselves who want the furrow plowed.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Radio Address

- How does Roosevelt describe the separation of powers?
- How does Roosevelt explain popular sovereignty?

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY: Government

Creating a Database Review the grievances against King George III listed in the Declaration of Independence. Then create a database that shows how specific sections of the U.S. Constitution addressed those grievances. Write a brief summary stating how well the Constitution addressed the grievances.

2. COOPERATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Drafting a Constitution Imagine you are asked to write a constitution for a newly formed country. Working with a group, make an outline like the one shown to help you organize your draft.

- Purpose of the Constitution (Preamble)
- Making Laws (Legislative Branch)
- Carrying Out the Laws (Executive Branch)
- Making Laws Fair (Judicial Branch)
- Choosing Leaders
- Citizens’ Rights (Bill of Rights)

3. PRIMARY SOURCE EXPLORER

Making a Learning Center Creating the U.S. Constitution was one of the most important events in the nation’s history. Use the CD-ROM and the library to collect information on different topics related to the Constitution.

Create a learning center featuring the suggestions below.

- Find biographies and portraits of the Framers.
- Collect important primary sources such as James Madison’s notes and *The Federalist* papers.
- Gather recent pictures and news articles about the Congress, the president, the Supreme Court, and the Bill of Rights.

4. HISTORY PORTFOLIO

Review your draft of the constitution you wrote for the assessment activity. Choose one of these options below.



Option 1 Use comments made by your teacher or classmates to improve your work.



Option 2 Illustrate your constitution. Add your work to your history portfolio.

Additional Test Practice,
pp. S1–S33



TEST PRACTICE
CLASSZONE.COM