

Anatomy of the Constitution

Time Needed: One class period

Materials Needed:

Student worksheets
 Projector
 Transparencies (2, if using overhead)

Copy Instructions:

Preamble Activity (half sheet; class set)
 Reading (4 pages; class set)
 Worksheet (2 pages; class set)
 Foldable (1 page; class set)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Explain the structure, function, and powers of the U.S. government as established in the Constitution
- Identify the roles of the three branches of government
- Describe the constitutional amendment process
- Interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution

STEP BY STEP

- ANTICIPATE** by asking students where the government gets its instructions. How do Congress, the President, and federal judges know what to do? Give students a moment to think, then randomly call on students to share their thoughts.
- DISTRIBUTE** one reading packet to each student.
- READ** through the first two paragraphs on page one with the class.
- PROJECT** the *Breaking it Down: The Preamble* projection master. Walk through the Preamble line by line with the class. The students should add the annotations to their reading. Also note that people living in the 1700s had different rules about capitalization than we do today.
- READ** the rest of page one, continuing through page three with the class. Explain that you will go into greater detail on the amendment process on the next page.
- READ** the information about the amendment process on page four and take the students through the various paths to the addition of an amendment to the Constitution.
- DISTRIBUTE** the tent foldable activity page and show the class how to fold it correctly.
- PROJECT** the *Whose Job Is It?* Active Review projection master, revealing one at a time.
- ASK** students to show the correct branch on their tent and note the correct answer on the projection. If you see areas of confusion, stop and clarify as needed.
- DISTRIBUTE** the worksheet pages to the class.
- ASSIGN** students to complete the worksheet activities. Review answers if you wish.
- CLOSE** by asking students to silently recall one purpose of the U.S. government, based on the Preamble. Call on students until all 6 goals discussed in the lesson have been named- without looking at the packet.

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Breaking It Down: What does each phrase in the Preamble really mean?

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union,

Self-government, not rule by a king

a better union of states than before

establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,

create a fair legal system, keep things peaceful at home



provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare,

join together to defend against attacks, help support people's well-being

and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,

make sure that freedom and liberty is around today and for our descendants

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

the people have created and agreed to follow this new plan of government

Whose Job Is It?

E=Executive

L= Legislative

J= Judicial

(For each description show the correct side of your tent.)

L 1. Prints money

E 2. Enforces the laws

J 3. Decides what a law means

L 4. Declares war

E 5. Includes the president, vice president, and the cabinet

L 6. Divided into the House and Senate

L 7. Punishes pirates!

E 8. Makes treaties with other countries

J 9. Can declare laws unconstitutional

E 10. Selected by the Electoral College

L 11. Selected by popular vote

E 12. Appoints Supreme Court Justices, federal judges, ambassadors and cabinet members

L 13. Approves presidential appointments

E 14. Makes a State of the Union address each year

L 15. Collect taxes



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****TEACHER GUIDE****



A. Vocabulary. Match the term with the correct definitions from the lesson.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>D</u> 1. ratify | A) Introduce a new amendment |
| <u>B</u> 2. execute | B) Carry out a law |
| <u>E</u> 3. federalism | C) A representative form of government |
| <u>C</u> 4. republican | D) Approve or pass an amendment |
| <u>A</u> 5. propose | E) System where the national government shares power with state governments |

B. Multiple Choice. Use what you have learned in this lesson to answer the following questions.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>C</u> 6. How many senators are in the U.S. Senate?</p> <p>a. 50
b. 435
c. 100
d. It depends on the population.</p> | <p><u>C</u> 8. What was added to the Constitution that listed rights not already in the Constitution?</p> <p>a. The 14th Amendment
b. The approval of all 13 states
c. The Bill of Rights
d. The Necessary and Proper Clause</p> |
| <p><u>D</u> 7. What does the Constitution say is the 'supreme law of the land'?</p> <p>a. The Bill of Rights
b. State laws
c. The amendments
d. U.S. or federal laws</p> | <p><u>A</u> 9. What is the term for members of the House of Representatives ?</p> <p>a. 2 years
b. 4 years
c. 6 years
d. Life</p> |

C. Separate Those Powers! Draw a line connecting each branch to the powers it has.

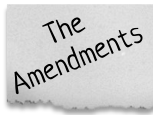


10. We write the bills that become laws.

11. We make sure the laws are carried out and enforced.

12. We hear cases about the laws and decide what the laws mean.

D. Article Match-Up. Draw a line connecting each Constitutional article with the subject that it covers.



13. Discusses how states should interact with each other.

14. Supreme Law of the Land

15. Creates the three branches of the U.S. government

16. Additions to the Constitution

17. How to amend the Constitution

18. How to Ratify the Constitution

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****TEACHER GUIDE****

E. Table of Contents. Complete the Constitutional Table of Contents by filling in the missing pieces with words from the lesson. Use the word bank below if you need help.

legislative	amended	Constitution	steps	executive
	federalism	purpose	judicial	states


Section	Answers these questions...
Preamble	What does the Constitution do? What is the PURPOSE of the government?
Article I	How does the LEGISLATIVE branch create laws? What powers do the states have?
Article II	How does the EXECUTIVE branch execute laws?
Article III	How does the JUDICIAL branch interpret the laws?
Article IV	How should the STATES get along with each other?
Article V	How can the Constitution be AMENDED , or changed?
Article VI	How does FEDERALISM work? Which law is supreme?
Article VII	What STEPS have to be taken to make the Constitution the law of the land?
Amendments	What changes have been made to the CONSTITUTION ?

F. Who Said It? First, match the quote about working in government to the correct branch. Then name the article that describes the powers of this branch.

Floor debate [on a bill] is an exhilarating experience and important duty.
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D- MI


The presidency has many problems, but boredom is the least of them.
Richard Nixon, R-CA

We apply laws to facts. We do not apply feelings to facts.
Justice Sonia Sotomayor




Article II

The Executive Branch



Article III

The Judicial Branch



Article I

The Legislative Branch