

Lesson 500



Social Studies

Accelerated
Learning Lab

The Constitution

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To the Student

You Should Know. . .

What the Declaration of Independence is (Lesson 410, *The American Revolution*)

What the Articles of Confederation are (Lesson 410, *The American Revolution*)

What happened at the Constitutional Convention (Lesson 420, *A New Nation*)

How to Use This Book

In this book, you will find numbered parts that are called frames. Within these frames, you will be asked to fill in the blank with a word or words to complete a sentence about the Constitution. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper. Then look at the top of the next page in the book to check your answers. The wording of your answers may vary from the answers in the lesson. Be sure to write an answer for each blank in the lesson.

Words in the lesson that are followed by this symbol (*) are listed in the Glossary at the end of this lesson. The Glossary will show you what the word means. Some words appear in the lesson in **boldface** typestyle. This style is used to show that the name or subject being discussed has some importance or significance in history and to the lesson.

If you work through the lesson in this way, you will learn about the Constitution. If you do not know the subjects listed under the *You Should Know...* section, ask your teacher for the recommended lesson. If you do not understand how to use this book or need assistance with certain frames, ask your instructor for help.

Now turn the page and begin.

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Section One: *The Seven Articles*

Objectives:

- You will know the basis for the Constitution.
- You will know what the Constitution is.
- You will know the seven articles of the Constitution and what they established, or set up.
- You will know what the effects of a historical document are.
- You will know which documents affected the development of the Constitution.

Journey to a Strong Central Government

Following the Revolutionary War, the United States was a *Confederation**. George Washington and other leaders began to see that the Confederation was weak. This government, under the *Articles of Confederation**, could not unite the states as a strong country. Something had to be done.

That something was holding the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to revise the Articles of Confederation. But, the Founding Fathers did not revise the Articles of Confederation. A document establishing rules for a better government needed to be developed. In 1787, at the convention in Philadelphia, the **United States Constitution*** was written.

1. What would the United States be without its **Constitution**? The Constitution is the document that set up our government and explained how our country would be run. It brought the original 13 states together as one nation. Before the Constitution, each state was run as the leaders and people of it saw fit. The states were not joined together as one country.
-

2. Our government was organized by the _____. The states were not _____ (joined / set up) together as one nation. Without the Constitution, our country might not exist.

But where did the Constitution come from? The foundation for the Constitution was the *Declaration of Independence**. If you do not know what the Declaration of Independence is, ask your teacher for Lesson 410, *The American Revolution*.

3. The _____ was the basis for the Constitution. The Constitution protects the rights of the people as stated in the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal and that all men have certain rights that cannot be taken away.
-

4. The Articles of Confederation was the first constitution – the constitution during the American Revolution. However, the Articles of Confederation lacked one thing. It did not say anything that would join the states together. The _____ made the states into one nation.

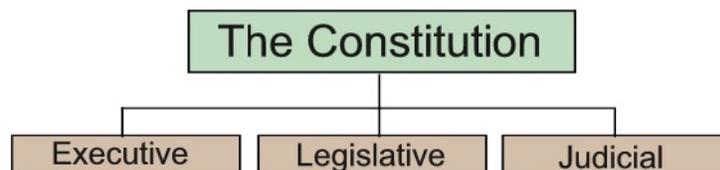
If you do not know what the Articles of Confederation is, ask your teacher for Lesson 410, *The American Revolution*.

answers to page 2

2. Constitution; joined
3. Declaration of Independence
4. Constitution

5. After the American Revolution, the Founding Fathers held the Constitutional Convention. During this convention, the _____ (Constitution / Declaration of Independence) was drafted, or written. The states then *ratified**, or approved, the Constitution. Our country was created and joined as one nation.

-
6. The _____ set up our government. The United States' government is made up of **three branches**, or sections. These three branches are:
- Executive
 - Legislative
 - Judicial



7. The three branches of government were set up by the _____. You will learn more about the _____ (two / three) branches of government in Lesson 510, *Branches of Government*.

answers to page 3

5. Constitution
6. Constitution
7. Constitution; three

-
8. The Constitution was important because it brought the nation together.

The beginning of the Constitution is 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 *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.

-
9. The _____ is the beginning of, or introduction to, the Constitution. It is only one sentence – a long one. However, this one sentence states why our country was founded and the reason our Constitution was written.

-
10. So far, you have learned that the Constitution set up the three _____ and that the Preamble is the _____ (end of / introduction to) the Constitution.

-
11. The Constitution is divided into **seven articles**. The articles are the sections that make up the Constitution. Each article deals with a different aspect of the government.

answers to page 4

- 9. Preamble
- 10. branches of government; introduction to

12. The sections of the Constitution are called _____. The first of the seven _____ set up the Congress, the legislative branch of the government.

13. **Article I**, the first article of the Constitution, established the _____ (Congress / Preamble), or the legislative branch.

The _____ is the introduction to the Constitution and tells why the Constitution was written.

14. **Article II**, the second article, set up the executive branch – the president and his cabinet. Article _____ set up the Congress.

15. **Article III**, the third article, established the judicial branch of the government – the United States Supreme Court.

Article II established the _____ (Congress / executive branch).

Article I established the _____.

answers to page 5

12. articles; articles
13. Congress; Preamble
14. I (or One)
15. executive branch; Congress *or* legislative branch

-
16. The seven sections of the Constitution – the seven _____ (articles / Preambles) – set up the government.

The first three articles set up the branches of government:

Article _____ set up the executive branch.

Article _____ set up the legislative branch, or Congress.

Article _____ set up the judicial branch.

The fourth article, **Article IV**, protects the rights and power of the individual states. Before the Revolution, each state had its own government. The states, generally, answered to no one else.

-
17. With the Constitution, the states were joined together. Article _____ protects the rights and power of the states. These rights included each state having

- Its own public records and judicial proceedings, such as trials.
- The ability to decide whether to allow slavery.
- The right to control businesses and trade within itself.

Article _____ set up the judicial branch.

Article _____ set up the legislative branch.

Article _____ set up the executive branch.

answers to page 6

- 16. articles; II; I; III
- 17. IV (four); III; I; II

-
18. The men who wrote the Constitution were wise. They understood that the United States was a new country. They knew that this new country would change and likely grow.

They allowed for the Constitution to change and grow as well. In **Article V**, the Founding Fathers set up how the Constitution could be amended, or changed.

_____ established the executive branch.

_____ set up the judicial branch.

_____ protects the rights and power of the _____ (countries / states).

-
19. Being able to make amendments, or changes, to the Constitution was set up in Article _____. However, amendments are not easy to make. It takes two-thirds of Congress to suggest, or propose, an amendment. Then three-fourths of the states must ratify, or accept, the amendment.

-
20. Changes _____ (can / cannot) be made to the Constitution. Article V allows for _____ (amendments / preambles) to the Constitution.

Article I set up the _____ branch of government.

Article II set up the _____ branch.

Article III established the _____ branch.

Article IV protects the rights and power of individual _____.

answers to page 7

18. Article II; Article III; Article IV; states
19. V
20. can; amendments; legislative; executive; judicial; states

21. The rights and power of individual states are protected by Article _____ of the Constitution. However, **Article VI** made the Constitution the supreme law of the United States. By accepting the Constitution, all states agree to support and obey the Constitution. States have their own rights and power. However, they all must do this under the control of the U.S. government – which was set up by the Constitution.

22. Article V allows for _____, or changes, to be made to the Constitution. Article _____ made the Constitution the supreme law. Each state controls certain areas, but they must obey the laws established by the Constitution.

23. The final article, **Article VII**, set up how the Constitution will be accepted, or ratified. Nine states' acceptance was enough to ratify the Constitution.

Article _____ makes the Constitution the supreme law of the country.

The _____ branch of government was set up by Article III.

The _____ branch of government was set up by Article I.

Article _____ allows for amendments to the Constitution.

Article IV protects the rights and power of the _____.

Article _____ set up the executive branch of government.

answers to page 8

21. IV
22. amendments; VI
23. VI; judicial; legislative; V; states; II

24. Article _____ set up how the Constitution was ratified. The states did ratify the Constitution. The ninth state to ratify the Constitution was New Hampshire. New Hampshire ratified the Constitution on June 21, 1788. This ratification made the Constitution official.

25. The Constitution is important to our country. Many documents throughout history have been just as important to other countries. How can something written on paper be so important? What makes a document so powerful?

26. Events and people have the power to change history. Like a single event (such as a battle or presidential election) or person, a single _____ (constitution / document) can change history. The United States Constitution changed the history of the United States. It set up our government and established how this country has been run for over two hundred years.

27. For example, the Declaration of Independence was a document that changed history. A document is important because it is official. The Declaration of Independence was an official statement of all the colonies' desire to be a separate country. They no longer wanted to be a part of England.

answers to page 9

24. VII
26. document
-

28. _____, like events, change history. When a nation makes an important decision, it is usually written down. These documents are important as official statements of a country's issues, decisions, ideas, and laws.

29. In the case of the Declaration of Independence, it confirmed that all the colonies were in agreement. _____ (All of / Some of) the colonies wanted to be free from England. It was a strong influence on the writing of the Constitution.

30. The _____ affected the writing of the Constitution. Other documents that have affected the Constitution and history are

- The Articles of Confederation.
- The Magna Carta.

answers to page 10

- 28. Documents
- 29. All of
- 30. Declaration of Independence

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Section One Summary: *The Seven Articles*

In this section, you learned that the development of the **Constitution** was influenced by the **Declaration of Independence**. It was influenced by the **Articles of Confederation** and the **Magna Carta**, also.

The Constitution is divided into sections called **articles**. There are seven articles in the Constitution.

- **Article I set up the legislative branch of government.**
- **Article II set up the executive branch of government.**
- **Article III set up the judicial branch of government.**
- **Article IV protects the states' rights and power.**
- **Article V allows for amendments to the Constitution and states how amendments are to be ratified.**
- **Article VI makes the Constitution the supreme law of the United States.**
- **Article VII set up how the Constitution would be ratified.**

Finally, you learned that **historical documents** are extremely important. They affect history, just as events and people affect history.



You should now complete the Lesson Worksheet for Lesson 500, Section One: *The Seven Articles*.

Section Two: Amendments to the Constitution

Objectives:

- You will learn how amendments are proposed and ratified.
- You will learn what the Bill of Rights is and why it is so important.
- You will learn about some of the most important amendments to the Constitution that affect everyday life.
- You will learn that the Constitution and its amendments, at times, must be *interpreted**
- You will learn who is responsible for interpreting the Constitution.

March to Freedom

African Americans had to fight for the right to vote. They had to fight for the right to eat in many restaurants and to enter many stores.

One way they did this was to have a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. Many people from across the United States came to Selma. The first march on March 7, 1965, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was halted by violence. Alabama State Troopers forced the marchers to turn around. They used clubs and gas to make the marchers turn back.

The marchers were not defeated, however. Led by Dr. King, they decided to march again on March 21, 1965. This time, on March 25th, they made it to Montgomery. The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965.

31. Amendments to the Constitution were made possible by the Founding Fathers. In Section One, you learned that they did this because they knew that the United States would grow and change and that the Constitution must be able to grow and change with the country.

Article _____ (IV / V) allowed for amendments to the Constitution. This article not only states that changes can be made, but how they are to be made.

32. First, an amendment is proposed, or introduced, by a vote of Congress. Two-thirds of the members of Congress must approve and vote for the amendment. This means that the amendment is proposed.
-

33. After an amendment is proposed by _____ (one-third / two-thirds) of Congress, it must be approved by the states' legislatures. An amendment is approved if three-fourths of the states' legislatures vote to approve it. Three-fourths of the states' legislatures must approve it.
-

34. Only _____ (Congress / the President) can propose amendments to the Constitution. _____ (Two-thirds / Three-fourths) of Congress can propose an amendment. _____ (Two-thirds / Three-fourths) of the states must approve an amendment.
-

35. As you learned in Section One, the Constitution was ratified in 1788. However, many states only ratified the Constitution because a Bill of Rights was promised. There are **27 amendments** to the Constitution. The **first 10 amendments** to the Constitution are the **Bill of Rights**.

answers to page 14

- 31. V
- 33. two-thirds
- 34. Congress; Two-thirds; Three-fourths

-
36. There are _____ (10 / 27) amendments to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights is the first 10 _____ to the Constitution. These amendments assure the American people of certain civil rights. Many of these rights were denied them under British rule. Many of these rights were, thus, declared inalienable – unchangeable or undeniable – in the Declaration of Independence. These were rights that should never be taken away. All men had these rights.

The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights protects the rights and privileges of the citizens of the United States. These first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States describe these basic freedoms.

1. Freedom of religion, speech, the press; right of peaceable assembly
2. Right to bear arms
3. Consent to house soldiers
4. No unreasonable searches or seizures
5. No self-incrimination; right to due process; no double jeopardy
6. Jury trial for all with public defense in a timely manner
7. In common law, right of jury trial
8. No excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment
9. Constitution cannot deny rights of others
10. Governmental power defaults to the states

answers to page 15

36. 27; amendments

37. The first 10 amendments of the Constitution are the _____. We will not discuss each of the 10 amendments separately. We will, however, discuss many of the rights that are protected by these amendments.

38. The Bill of Rights was important because, without it, some states might not have ratified the Constitution. These first 10 amendments protected many civil _____.

Americans wanted the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution because they did not want the same problems they had with England. They wanted their rights protected.

39. As with the Declaration of Independence, these rights were not for everyone. They were for white, male Americans. Women and African Americans were not included. As you know, most African Americans were in slavery at this time.

The civil rights protected by the Bill of Rights were only protected for white _____ (female / male) Americans.

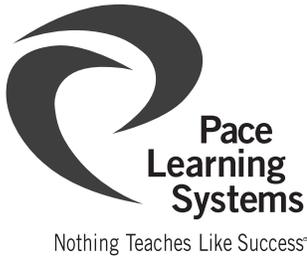
answers to page 16

- 37. Bill of Rights
- 38. rights
- 39. male

40. Below are some of the civil rights that are protected by the Bill of Rights:

- Freedom of religion
- Right to bear arms (have weapons)
- No unreasonable search and seizure (police must have a search warrant to search you or your property)
- No double jeopardy (cannot be tried twice for the same crime)
- Cannot be forced to testify against oneself
- Right to a speedy trial (cannot be kept in jail for a long period of time without a trial)
- No cruel or unusual punishment (the harshness of punishment should fit the harshness of the crime)

41. As you learned in Lesson 400, *Colonial America*, one of the reasons colonists came to the New World was to escape religious *persecution**. Americans wanted to make sure this type of persecution did not happen again. They wanted their **right to religious freedom** assured. In the _____, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, Americans wanted to secure their right to choose their religion.



End of Lesson Sample

We appreciate your interest!

Contact Pace Learning Systems for more information or to request a physical sample of the complete lesson booklet.

For more information on the curriculum that contains this lesson, visit us online or contact us any time.

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