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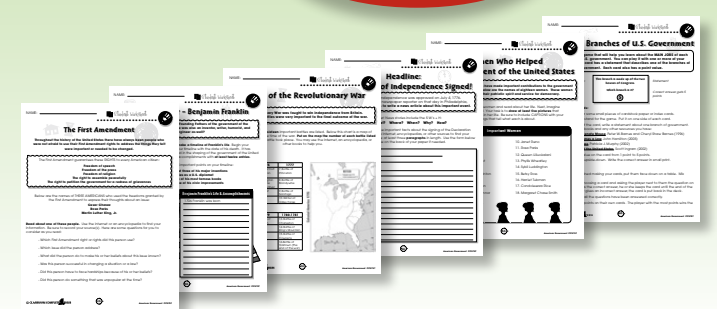
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The Constitution of the U.S.A.

1. Complete each sentence with a term from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

Constitution	liberty	democracy	supreme law	citizen	amendment
popular sovereignty	representative	ratify	Founding Fathers		

- a) A person who has rights within a government is called a _____.
- b) The signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution are called the _____.
- c) _____ is the belief that the people of a country should hold supreme power.
- d) A change in a law is called an _____.
- e) A set of written rules which set up a government are called the _____.
- f) A person who is chosen to state the beliefs of and to make laws for others is called a _____.
- g) Another word for freedom is _____.
- h) The highest or most powerful law in the country is called the _____.
- i) A _____ is a form of government in which the people choose who governs them.
- j) _____ also means to approve something.

2. Use the terms in the list above to fill in each blank.

See the signatures of the _____ a _____!

A copy of the _____ b _____ of the United States of America and the Declaration of Independence will be on display tomorrow in the library!

Examine the names of all the men who signed them.

Learn about the fight for _____ c _____ and justice!

Imagine that you are one of the first _____ d _____ of the U.S.A.!



The Constitution of the U.S.A.

A Little History

The King of England ruled the American colonies for years. Finally, in 1776, a group of American men wanted to tell the king just how much the Americans wanted to be free of English rule. They chose Thomas Jefferson to write The **Declaration of Independence**. The Declaration told the king that the Americans believed that all men were created equal. They also believed that all men had certain rights including the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Of course, King George was very angry. He sent British troops to America to control the colonists. This was the beginning of the **Revolutionary War**, also known as the **War for Independence**. The war went on for seven long years. **George Washington** was the **Commander-in-Chief** of the American forces in the fight for liberty. Then, in 1783, the Americans won the war.

When the war ended, the next job was to write a plan for government and law for the new **United States of America**. Many men, including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington helped write the Constitution. These men, along with others, are called the **Founding Fathers** because of the role they played in starting the United States.



Who Wrote It? The Constitution of the United States was written by several men. Name three of them and tell why they were called the Founding Fathers.

What Is the Constitution?

The **Constitution** is the **supreme law** of the United States. It divides the government into three parts: **the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary**. It also states that any **citizen** may take part in the government by voting. Each of the states had to **ratify** or approve the Constitution.



The Constitution of the U.S.A.

1. Number the events from 1 to 5 in the order they happened.

- _____ a) King George sent troops to America.
- _____ b) Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- _____ c) The Constitution of the United States was written and ratified.
- _____ d) The War for Independence from Britain ended.
- _____ e) George Washington served as Commander-in-Chief of the American forces.

2. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

- a) Benjamin Franklin wrote the Declaration of Independence.
True False
- b) Another name for the War for Independence is the Revolutionary War.
True False
- c) America won the War for Independence in 1780.
True False
- d) The U.S. Constitution is the basis for all other laws in the United States.
True False
- e) The Constitution divides the government into two parts.
True False

Here are six writing tasks about the government of the United States. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the United States government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

Task #1 Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. Organize your thoughts and knowledge about government and discuss the purpose(s) of government. In the United States' system of government, who or what are most important?

Task #2 The Constitution of the United States has a very important purpose for its government. What is that purpose? What is the Constitution sometimes called?

Task #3 The Declaration of Independence states that all citizens have certain rights. What are three of these rights? What document gives the citizens these and other rights?

Task #4 Rights always come along with responsibilities. Think about the rights you discussed in Writing Task 3 as well as others. Discuss at least one of the responsibilities that comes along with them.

Task #5 All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, poverty). If you were president of the United States, which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

Task #6 The powers of all three branches of the U.S. government are equal. What document limits the powers of each branch? What is this limiting of powers called? Do you think that these limitations are good or bad? Tell why.



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

impeach	rights
enforce	nine
ratify	elected
Congress	nominate
government	Senate
House	resign
Ben	George
democracy	good
	power
	term
	defend
	anarchy
	veto

Down

- A government should provide for the common _____ of its citizens
- To command obedience to _____
- The number of justices (judges) on the U.S. Supreme Court _____
- Length of time in elected office _____
- Makes federal laws _____
- Exists when there is no government in a country _____
- To choose or select _____
- A form of government in which the people choose who governs them _____
- The _____ of Representatives _____
- To quit or leave office _____

Across

- The person or group of people who make the rules or laws for everyone else _____
- In the United States government, leaders are _____ or chosen by the people _____
- The ability to control someone or something _____
- To put the president on trial _____
- Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the _____
- To keep safe from danger or attack _____
- Privileges that are due to people by law _____
- To approve a rule or a law _____
- To say no to a proposed law or bill _____
- _____ Franklin _____
- _____ Washington _____

Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| government | powers | anarchy | resign |
| veto | branch | ratify | laws |
| Congress | legislate | run | leader |
| vote | election | party | debate |
| checks | democracy | justice | war |
| senator | president | constitutional | clerk |
| bill | poll | judges | campaign |

g	a	b	c	d	e	f	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	n	p	q	
r	o	s	t	u	s	m	s	e	t	w	j	u	d	g	e	s		
r	x	v	y	r	z	a	b	c	a	e	r	u	g	h	i	i	w	
j	a	k	e	l	l	m	c	h	e	c	k	s	n	o	s	p	a	
q	r	w	s	r	t	o	u	y	w	x	y	t	z	a	e	b	l	
c	o	d	e	f	n	g	h	l	o	j	k	i	l	m	r	n	o	
p	p	q	r	g	s	m	t	t	u	v	w	c	x	y	z	a	b	
c	d	e	r	f	g	h	e	i	j	k	l	e	t	a	b	e	d	
m	n	e	o	p	q	v	r	i	s	e	t	c	u	v	w	e	x	
y	s	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	t	g	l	h	i	j	m	k	l	
s	m	n	o	p	e	q	r	o	s	e	t	e	u	o	v	w	x	
y	z	a	b	c	m	o	v	e	r	f	g	h	c	i	j	k	n	
l	m	l	n	o	e	p	q	k	r	s	t	r	u	t	v	o	w	
x	s	e	n	a	t	o	r	y	z	a	a	b	c	d	i	e	f	
g	h	a	i	j	a	k	l	m	n	c	o	n	p	t	q	o	r	
s	t	d	u	v	l	w	x	y	y	z	a	b	a	c	d	e	n	
h	f	e	a	n	s	i	j	k	l	m	n	n	o	r	p	q	r	
c	s	r	a	i	f	y	n	g	i	a	p	m	a	c	t	u		
n	v	w	x	y	g	z	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	h	j	
a	k	l	p	r	e	s	i	d	e	n	e	t	m	n	o	p	q	y
r	r	s	o	t	l	u	v	w	x	y	z	p	a	r	t	y	a	
b	i	l	l	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	u	l	m	n	
o	p	q	l	a	n	o	i	t	u	t	i	t	s	n	o	c	r	



Comprehension Quiz

Part A



Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.
True **False** _____
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.
True **False** _____
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.
True **False** _____
- The Declaration of Independence was written after the Revolutionary War in order to set up a government for the new country.
True **False** _____
- Many men helped write the Constitution of the United States.
True **False** _____
- The Supreme Law of the United States is the Declaration of Independence.
True **False** _____
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.
True **False** _____
- The only way to change the Constitution of the United States is by the vote of the Supreme Court.
True **False** _____
- The Supreme Court is the only branch of government in which the people cannot directly vote for its members.
True **False** _____
- The executive branch of government includes the vice-president and his staff.
True **False** _____

SUBTOTAL: /10

The White House (Washington D.C.)



NAME: _____

After You Read 



The Constitution of the U.S.A.

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. The Declaration of Independence stated that all men are created equal and have three basic rights. What are these **three basic rights**?

4. The Constitution divides the government into three branches. Each branch has a different purpose. What are the **three branches**?

5. Who chooses the representatives who will make the laws in a democracy?

6. What is the **Bill of Rights**?

7. What does each branch of the U.S. government do?

8. Become a Research Detective!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to help you find the following:

You have learned about the Bill of Rights. In complete sentences tell the **main idea** of each of the Amendments (there are **ten!**). Write your answers on the chart on the next page.

3.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

4.

Executive, legislative, and judiciary

5.

The citizens

6.

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution of the U.S.

7.

enforce the laws
Legislative - the laws
Judicial - make sure the laws are Constitutional

8.

1 - freedom of religion
2 - right to bear arms
3 - no soldiers quartered in private homes
4 - freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
5 - due process
6 - right to a speedy trial
7 - right to trial by jury
8 - no excessive bail
9 - guarantee of all rights
10 - powers not held by federal government belong to state governments

11

Answers will vary

Across:

- 1. government
- 5. elected
- 6. power
- 7. impeach
- 11. Senate
- 12. defend
- 13. rights
- 14. ratify
- 17. veto
- 18. Ben
- 19. George

Down:

- 1. good
- 2. enforce
- 3. nine
- 4. term
- 8. Congress
- 9. anarchy
- 10. nominate
- 12. democracy
- 15. House
- 16. resign



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY