

# ARTICLE 1: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The first article of the Constitution created the Legislative Branch also known as Congress. It is listed first and takes up more than half of the Constitution because it is the most important branch of our government. Article 1 sets up the structure of Congress, how laws are made, and the powers of Congress



Congress is divided into two houses, **the Senate** and **the House of Representatives**. Each house is made up of elected representatives from each state. Article one states the duties of each branch.



**SENATE**

The Senate is made up of 100 elected representatives called senators. Each state has 2 senators. Fill in your states senators:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The House of Representatives has 435 members. Each state gets a certain number of representatives depending on it's population. Do you know who the representative from your district is?

\_\_\_\_\_

There are certain requirements before you can become elected a member of Congress. Fill them out below.

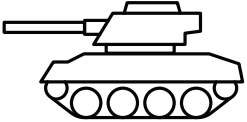


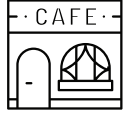

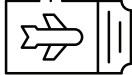


	MINIMUM AGE	YEARS A CITIZEN	LENGTH OF TERM
<b>SENATE</b>			
<b>HOUSE</b>			

# ARTICLE 1: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Article one of the Constitution lays out all the different powers of Congress. Below is a list of several of those powers.



## POWERS OF CONGRESS

 DECLARE WAR	 PRINT MONEY	 RAISE AN ARMY AND NAVY	 REGULATE COMMERCE
 ESTABLISH POST OFFICES	 MAKE IMMIGRATION RULES	 ESTABLISH FEDERAL COURTS	 MAKE LAWS



## MAKING LAWS

Congress's most important power is making laws. Laws start out as a bill and have to go through a long process in both houses of Congress before it can become a law. Here is the process:

- A member of Congress proposes the idea as a **BILL**.
- A committee then studies the bill and, if approved, it is voted on in that house.
- If the vote passes it moves on to the other house where it is again voted on.



**SENATE**



**HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**



- The bill has to pass with a majority vote in both the Senate and the House. If that vote passes, a final version of the bill is prepared and approved from the versions of each house and sent to the President where he can either sign it into law or veto it.
- If the bill is vetoed then the Senate and House have a chance to override the president's veto with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote in each house.

# ARTICLE 2: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Article 2 of the Constitution sets up the executive branch which includes the president, the vice president, and other executive agencies. It describes how to elect the president and vice president, the different powers and responsibilities of the president, and how to remove the president from office.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT



The Executive branch has several departments. The president picks a leader for each department to report back to the president. They are part of the **president's cabinet**. Here are some of the departments:



Did you know there is an order of succession if the president dies, resigns, or is removed from office? Fill in the first four people who hold these titles.

1. Vice President:
2. Speaker of the House:
3. President pro tempore of the Senate:
4. Secretary of State:
5. Secretary of the Treasury:

# ARTICLE 3: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Article 3 of the Constitution sets up the judicial branch which includes the Supreme Court and other federal courts. It describes the powers and responsibilities of the courts, what kind of cases can be heard, and details on how trials should be run. It also defines and sets out how to deal with treason against the United States.



The legislative branch creates laws, the executive branch enforces laws, and **the judicial branch is responsible for interpreting those laws.**

There are federal courts located all over the country. The trial courts are called **District Courts**, appeals are heard in the **Circuit Courts** and **The Supreme Court is the highest court.** When a case is lost in a lower court, they can appeal it, or ask for it to be retried at a higher level. That process can take it all the way to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court decides which cases it will take. If it refuses to hear a case, the decision of the lower court stands. But, if the Supreme Court does rule on a case, **its decision is final.**

US SUPREME COURT
12 REGIONAL US COURT OF APPEALS
94 US DISTRICT COURTS

Currently there are 9 Supreme Court Justices. Can you list all nine?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

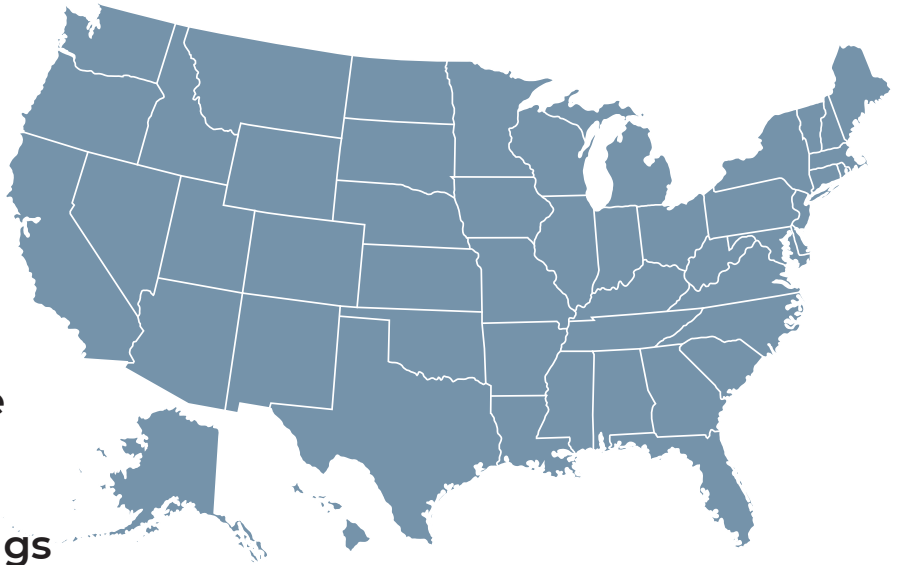
These justices often don't agree with each other. In these cases, **the majority decision wins.**

## ARTICLE 4: THE STATES

Article 4 talks about the relationships of the states to one another and the relationship of the states to the federal government. It forbids any state from treating citizens from another state different than its own citizens. It also gives congress power to admit new states to the United States.

Article four unified the states making them recognize the laws, records, and court verdicts of other states. It also says that every state will have it's own form of democratic government and that **the federal government will protect each state from invasion or major uprisings within the state.**

**CAN YOU NAME ALL 50 STATES?**



## ARTICLE 5: AMENDMENTS

Article 5 lists the steps for amending the Constitution by adding or changing things. The Founders knew that times would change and the people may need to amend the Constitution.

Congress can propose changes when  $\frac{2}{3}$  of both the House of Representatives and the Senate decide it is necessary. Those additions or changes become an official part of the Constitution when they are accepted by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the state legislatures.

Shortly after the Constitution was ratified the first ten amendments were added to the Constitution. These amendments are known as **the Bill of Rights.**

**Do you know how many amendments there are?**

## ARTICLE 6: THE LAW OF THE LAND

Article 6 makes the Constitution the supreme law of the land. It talks about the legitimacy of the new government and requires all federal and state officials to support it.

Article 6 contains the **supremacy clause**. It says that the federal Constitution, laws, and treaties are superior to anything else. No state law or constitution can override them.

## ARTICLE 7: RATIFICATION

Article 7 explains the ratification process of the Constitution. If nine states agree to ratify then it is considered the law of the land.

**Do you know which were the first nine states to ratify the Constitution?**

## THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. When the Constitution was first written many anti-federalists opposed it because they felt that it didn't include liberties that they had fought Great Britain for. James Madison was worried that any list of rights would be incomplete. He worried that if they missed some rights then people would lose them. If that were to happen then it could actually limit people's freedoms.

James Madison wrote the Bill of Rights and in 1791 (two years after the Constitution was ratified) they were added to the end of the Constitution. **How well do you think James Madison did? Was he able to preserve our liberties with the Bill of Rights he wrote?**

# CONSTITUTION WORD SEARCH

X L R Y Z Q A J B N Y O S T A T E S  
W L A K T Y U U B V S O P E P B S U  
F P A K Z W A D Z X I L P E R I Z P  
E L R R Z P T I P N V E T O E L I R  
C L A E T Y A C B U I G P E S L S E  
O H M K A I A I A D I I P B I O I M  
N F E K Z M C A L R I S P V D F M E  
S G N K Z Y B L B B I L L Y E R N C  
T V D E Z O A L E N L A W T N I B O  
I M M K X Y A M E S I T P Z T G C U  
T A E K C E A N B N T I P H Q H S R  
U D N F Z O C A R N I V P E U T R T  
T W T Y C Y N U P O W E R S V S S A  
I V S T R A A G T N F R E E D O M S  
O L A K P Y P A R I I O P I H W S U  
N M T K Z Y A I U E V O O J O B F N  
S E N A T E R S T N S E T K U M R I  
F L A K Z Y A A B O I S Y L S E S O  
G O V E R N M E N T L O K E E W S N

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

ARTICLES

LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

CONGRESS

SENATE

HOUSE

POWERS

BILL OF RIGHTS

FREEDOMS

SUPREME COURT

VETO

BILL

LAW

UNION

PRESIDENT

GOVERNMENT

STATES

AMENDMENTS

# BILL OF RIGHTS

This column contains the exact wording from the Constitution

## AMENDMENT 1

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.

This column contains a more simple and easier to understand description

## AMENDMENT 1

Protection of the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, right to petition, and the right to peacefully assemble.

## AMENDMENT 2

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 2

The right of the people to own and carry guns.

## AMENDMENT 3

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 3

No one will be forced to house soldiers in their private residence without the owners permission.

## AMENDMENT 4

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 4

People and their property and belongings are protected from being searched without reason.

## AMENDMENT 5

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 5

No person will have their life, liberty, or property taken away without proper legal procedures.



# BILL OF RIGHTS

This column contains the exact wording from the Constitution

## AMENDMENT 6

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.

This column contains a more simple and easier to understand description

## AMENDMENT 6

The right to a speedy, public, and fair trial with the help of a lawyer.

## AMENDMENT 7

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 7

The right to a trial by jury.

## AMENDMENT 8

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

## AMENDMENT 8

No excessive bail, nor cruel and unusual punishment will be allowed.

## AMENDMENT 9

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

## AMENDMENT 9

The rights of the people are not limited to just the rights listed in the Constitution.

## AMENDMENT 10

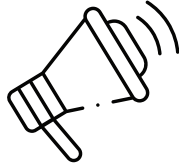
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

## AMENDMENT 10

Power not given to the federal government belongs to the state or to the people.

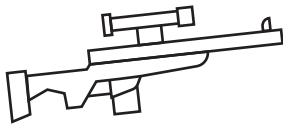
Cut out the first 10 amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, and test your knowledge by mixing them all up and then trying to match the number with the description.

### **AMENDMENT 1**



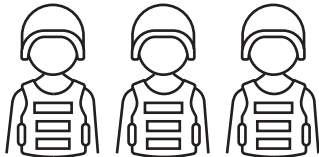
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### **AMENDMENT 2**



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### **AMENDMENT 3**



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### **AMENDMENT 4**



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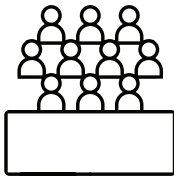
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## AMENDMENT 6



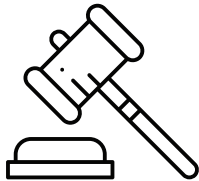
The right to a speedy, public, and fair trial with the help of a lawyer.

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The right to a trial by jury.

## AMENDMENT 8



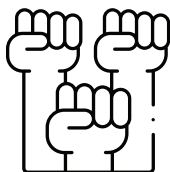
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