



## Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Workbook

Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

### Scout Information

Scout Name \_\_\_\_\_ Troop # \_\_\_\_\_

Scoutmaster's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scout Master Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructor Information

Instructor Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Counselor Information

Merit Badge Counselor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment to Meet with Counselor Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

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Purpose of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Scout,

Welcome to Constitution Week Scout Night.

We have prepared this Merit Badge Workbook to help you understand and fulfill the requirements for the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge. Remember that this workbook is just a tool to help you earn the merit badge. There will be things that you will write in this workbook that will satisfy a requirement of the merit badge. However, it's very important to understand that merely attending and participating in this class does not fulfill the requirements where you must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate your knowledge about citizenship to your personal merit badge counselor, the only person that can sign your blue card.

Your Merit Badge Instructor tonight is very well qualified to teach the subject material and to answer any questions that you have with regard to the information covered in class. But it is very important that you understand that your Instructor is NOT your Merit Badge Counselor for this merit badge. You will need to seek out a merit badge counselor with the help of your Scoutmaster. You probably already know the person that will be your approved counselor.

In order to earn the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge, you must actually and personally complete each requirement to the satisfaction of your Merit Badge Counselor.

Your job tonight is to pay attention to the discussion of the material, to carefully fill in the blanks, make notes, participate in the discussion, and to learn the concepts presented so that you can take your completed study guide home with you better prepared to discuss, explain, and demonstrate your knowledge of what it means to be a good citizen in your nation with your Merit Badge Counselor.

This merit badge is one of the required merit badges to earn your Eagle Rank Award. This is because it is very important to understand the concepts that you will learn by earning this merit badge.

As you will see, being a citizen in your nation is more than simply living in your country. A nation works best when everyone pulls together to make their nation a better place to live.

If you apply yourself over the next couple months, not only will you be able to pass off all the requirements for the merit badge, but you'll also learn a great deal about your nation and how you can make contributions to make it a better place for everyone.

OK, if you are ready, let's begin this journey to understanding Citizenship in the Nation.

Workbook prepared by:

Dwayne Farnsworth  
Constitution Week USA



# Requirements

Done

- 1. Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.
- 2. Do TWO of the following:
  - a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
  - b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
  - c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
  - d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.
- 3. Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.
- 4. Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one
  - a. Declaration of Independence
  - b. Preamble to the Constitution
  - c. The Constitution
  - d. Bill of Rights
  - e. Amendments to the Constitution
- 5. List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution. Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.
- 6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.
- 7. Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of the system of checks and balances.
- 8. Name your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you receive to your counselor.



## Requirement 1

EXPLAIN what citizenship in the nation means

The United States is sometimes referred to as a “nation of immigrants.” You may have also heard the phrase “melting pot.” In its short history the United States has seen many waves of immigrants come to its shores and borders. For reasons such as political or religious persecution or in search of better economic conditions, many people have fled their native lands to live in America, the land of the free. This has resulted in a very diverse U.S. population. People living here have different heritages, religious beliefs, ethnicity, languages, and national origins. Though there are these differences, Americans are bound together by basic political values and principles described in historical documents.

However, living in the United States does not automatically make one an American citizen. Residents of the United States can be aliens, nationals, or citizens. Aliens are people who have emigrated from a foreign country. They have some of the same freedoms and legal rights as U.S. citizens, but they cannot vote in elections. American nationals are natives of American territorial possessions. They have all the legal protections which citizens have, but they do not have the full political rights of U.S. citizens. Persons born in the U.S. or born to U.S. citizens in foreign countries are automatically citizens of the United States. Persons born in other countries who want to become citizens must apply for and pass a citizenship test. Those who become citizens in this manner are *Naturalized* citizens.

### What is a Citizen?

A citizen is someone who is recognized by the government as having the right to inhabit, reside, and belong legally to a nation, state, or community.

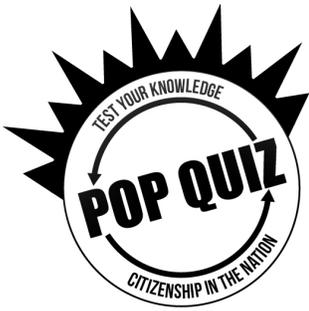
You are a citizen of the United States if you were born in this country, or if you were born in some other country to parents who were citizens of United States when you were born, or if you were born in another country to non-US citizens and have been *Naturalized*, or granted citizenship by the US government.

### Word Match

(Draw a line between the word and its definition)

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Alien</b>          | a. A citizen or subject of a particular nation who is entitled to its protection.   |
| 2. <b>Citizen</b>        | b. A native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.                     |
| 3. <b>Immigrant</b>      | c. The official act by which a person is made a national of a country other than his native one.  |
| 4. <b>National</b>       | d. A person residing under a government or in a country other than that of one's birth without having or obtaining the status of citizenship there. |
| 5. <b>Naturalization</b> | e. A person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.   |

Answer Key: 1.d. 2.b. 3.e. 4.a. 5.c.



### You are a Citizen of the United States If...

You were born in the United States.	T	F
Your parents were US citizens when you were born.	T	F
Your parents were not US Citizens when you were born, you were born outside of the United States, and you have not become <i>Naturalized</i> by the US.	T	F

### Fill in the Blank

A foreigner who lives in the United States but is not a citizen is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

A person who is a recognized member of his community, state, or nation is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

People from foreign lands who come to America can become \_\_\_\_\_ citizens.

**Word Key:** Alien Citizen Naturalized

### Requirement 1 (continued)

EXPLAIN what it takes to be a good citizen of this country.

Every person is expected to obey the laws of the community, state and country in which he/she lives. All Americans are expected to respect the rights of others. All persons living in the U.S. are expected to pay their income taxes and other taxes honestly and on time. The tax money is used by different government agencies to pay for the services provided to Americans.

### In order to be a good citizen in this country you should:

\_\_\_\_\_ in the political process in an informed and positive way!

Stay informed about federal laws and \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Watch for opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbors, state, and nation.

Respect of the \_\_\_\_\_, their \_\_\_\_\_, and their opinions.

**Word Key:**

- Participate
- Obey
- Serve
- Rights of Others
- Property

Governments are instituted of men in order to protect their natural and God-given rights to life, liberty, and property.

Liberty, or the freedom to choose is \_\_\_\_\_ -given and based on \_\_\_\_\_ law.

Property that we own is the fruit, or result, of what we have done with our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = Property

Our property can only be justly taken away by our consent. Government gets it's authority from the people. If the people don't have the authority, the government \_\_\_\_\_ obtain that authority on it's own.

**Word Key:** God Natural Life Liberty Life Liberty Cannot

**Requirement 1** (continued)

DISCUSS the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen

**Your Rights of Citizenship include** (but are not limited to):

1. The right to speak your mind freely without fear of losing freedom or property.
  2. The right to assemble freely with whom ever you want.
  3. The right to freely exercise your religion without fear of government interference.
  4. The right of a free and uncensored press (newspapers, TV news, radio, books, internet)
  5. The right to own guns and ammunition, and to use them safely and appropriately.
  6. The right to be safe in our homes from unlawful government searches and seizures.
  7. The right to know why you are being held or detained by police. To a fair and speedy trial.
- A. You are also entitled to the full protection of all Federal, State, and Local laws.
- B. You have the right to Vote for those who will represent you in making and enforcing the law.
- C. You have the right to choose how to live your life, where to work, where to go to school, who to hang out with, what to drive, what to eat, and where to live.
- D. You are entitled to be treated equally under the law,  
This means that the government must treat everyone the same, and by the same rules.
- E. You are entitled to Due Process of Law  
This means that you are entitled to know if someone wants to legally take your property or liberty.

**Duties and Obligations of a Responsible and Active American Citizen**

Men can be asked to serve in the armed forces. During times of war, any man who is physically able can be called upon to fight for the US. In peaceful times, there can be a draft or men can enlist voluntarily. The U.S. has had both systems in the past, and the system changes from time to time. In some states or local areas, any person may be ordered to help the sheriff arrest a criminal or to enforce peace and order.

Before voting in an election, each citizen should be well informed about the issues and candidates. Research and resources can help citizens keep current on issues facing our nation and how members of Congress vote on these issues. The political parties distribute brochures, pamphlets and newsletters about their candidates, the party platform, and the party view on important issues. Citizens can read this information to learn about the differences among the parties. Some candidates are independent and do not belong to a political party. These candidates distribute their own information. Radio, television, newspapers, and magazines provide information, also. Each citizen needs to make his/her own decision about who would be the best representatives by considering all sides of the issues.



## Citizen Responsibilities

State and local elections involve voting on issues or laws that are of concern to the citizens, such as businesses, schools, neighborhoods, transportation, safety or health. In many states, the voters have a direct part in the lawmaking process. For example, a law that has been passed in the state legislature may be sent back to the voters to accept or reject. The voters decide directly if a new law should be put into effect. This is known as the **power of referendum**. Another form of direct lawmaking by the voters in some states is the **initiative**. In this process, a group of voters signs a petition asking for a specific law. If enough people have signed the petition, the qualified voters must be given a chance to vote for or against the proposed law. The law will go into effect if more than half (a majority) of the votes are in favor of the law. These two processes, **referendum and initiative**, show the authority of the people in the U.S. system of government and the importance of being a well-informed citizen.

To keep the laws responsive to the needs of the citizens of state and nation, it is important to vote and be represented.

It is important for all educated citizens to vote in every election to make sure that our democratic representative system of government is maintained. Persons who do not vote lose their voice in the government. If you do not educate yourself enough to make a rational decision on a vote. Please don't vote. If you don't educate yourself, and vote your conscience after a thorough investigation and research of candidates and propositions, then you have no right to complain about the outcome of the election.

Citizens are responsible to pay their fair share of taxes that are necessary in order to fund the responsibilities and legitimate services that government provides.

In order to protect and preserve the freedoms and privileges that we enjoy, it is crucial that the nation have a righteous and law abiding citizenry.

Notes:



**Requirement 2**

DO TWO of the following (2A, 2B, 2C, or 2D) to complete Requirement 2

2a. VISIT a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. TELL your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.

There are 45 National Historic Landmarks in the State of Arizona. For purpose of illustration, below is a partial list of National Historic Landmarks located in Arizona.

<b>Landmark Names</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>County</b>
El Tovar	Grand Canyon Village	Coconino
Fort Huachuca	Sierra Vista	Cochise
Grand Canyon Depot	Grand Canyon Village	Coconino
Hoover Dam	Lake Mead	Mojave
Jerome Historic District	Jerome	Yavapai
Lowell Observatory	Flagstaff	Coconino
Pueblo Grande Ruins	Phoenix	Maricopa
San Xavier del Bac Mission	Tucson	Pima
Tallesin West	Scottsdale	Maricopa
Tombstone Historic District	Tombstone	Cochise

There are more than 1400 National Historic Places located in the state of Arizona to choose from.

National Historic Landmark or Place Selected to Visit \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about the landmark or site? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What did you find interesting about the site? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2b. TOUR your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. TELL your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

Which Capitol did you Tour? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about the Capitol? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What is it's function and history? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



2c. TOUR a federal facility. EXPLAIN to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.

What Federal Facility did you Tour? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you see there and learn about it's function? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does it serve this nation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2d. CHOOSE a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, FIND OUT more about the monument. TELL your counselor what you learned, and EXPLAIN why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Which National Monument interested you? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you find out about the monument through your research? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why is the monument important to this country's citizens ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Requirement 3**

WATCH the national evening news five days in a row OR READ the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row.

Which evening news did you watch or which newspaper did you read? \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of National Issue Day 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of National Issue Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of National Issue Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of National Issue Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of National Issue Day 5: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 3**

DISCUSS the national issues you learned about with your counselor.

Done

**Requirement 3 (continued)**

CHOOSE one of the issues and EXPLAIN how it affects you and your family.

Which issue did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this issue affect you and your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Requirement 4

DISCUSS the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Amendments to the Constitution with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.

DISCUSS the Declaration of Independence with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without the Declaration of Independence.

The United States Declaration of Independence was a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, announcing that the thirteen American colonies then at war with Great Britain were no longer a part of the British Empire. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration was a document formally explaining why Congress had voted on July 2 to declare independence from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. Philosophically, the Declaration stressed two Lockean themes: individual rights and the right of revolution. The birthday of the United States of America—Independence Day—is celebrated on July 4, the day the wording of the Declaration was approved by Congress. Contrary to a widely held belief, Congress did not sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Declaration was first published as a typeset broadside; the famous handwritten version was created after July 19, and was signed by most Congressional delegates on August 2. This copy, usually regarded as the Declaration of Independence, is now on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It has faded badly, largely because of poor preservation techniques during the 19th century. The document measures 29¾ inches by 24½ inches.

## The Declaration of Independence is America’s birth certificate

The truths described in the Declaration refer to “All Men”, not just Americans. This document has had a profound impact where countries have fought to win their independence. Today the declaration continues to inspire the fight for freedom around the world.

The Declaration of Independence has 5 main parts:

1. The Preamble, which explains why the Declaration was written
2. A series of “Self-Evident” truths about the rights of all men, and the principles of government to which the people were committed
3. A list of 27 specific complaints against King George III
4. A summary of the efforts that colonists made to avoid a break with England
5. A declaration that the 13 colonies are “Free and Independent” states, completely separate from Great Britain

Done Discuss the Declaration of Independence with your merit badge counselor

How you feel life in the United States might be different without the Declaration of Independence.

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# *The Declaration of Independence*

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_, that all men are \_\_\_\_\_ equal, that they are endowed by their \_\_\_\_\_ with certain unalienable \_\_\_\_\_, that among these are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

**Key Words:** Truths Self-Evident Created Creator Rights Life Liberty



# *The Declaration of Independence*

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.



# *The Declaration of Independence*

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

*John Hancock*

56 Men signed their names to this Declaration, and by so doing, committed an act of treason against Great Britain. Had the Americans lost the revolutionary war, these glorious patriots would have been convicted of treason.



# We the People

## Preamble to the Constitution

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. "*

**What are the first three words of the Constitution?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does "preamble" mean?** It means the introduction preface for word or opening

The emphasis in the preamble is on establishing a government that will protect life and property

The Constitution is drafted, designed, and ordained to protect its citizens from foreign invasion, to maintain law and order at home, and to provide justice in the courts.

The main purposes for which the United States government was established are listed in the preamble to the Constitution. They make up the "six functions of government"

### To form a more perfect union

At the time of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 the colonies had been operating under the Articles of Confederation which worked somewhat, but the Framers felt that they could do better. They were striving to create this new constitution which might not be perfect, but it would be "more perfect" than the Articles had been. In a more perfect union the states would agree on things like common laws and how each independent state would interact with one another fairly. What the federal government would do for one state it would do for all states, with no individual state being favored by the law. It would provide for greater peace than if the individual states had become separate countries in close proximity to one another.

### Establish justice

True justice means that there is no corruption or favoritism in the law. Lady Justice considers the evidence and is not influenced by stature, station in life, or the race of either the accuser or the accused. All claims and evidence are weighed carefully, and the power to administer and enforce justice is evenhanded, impartial, even though powerful. The people of 1787 wanted a nation where the courts were uniform and the laws were fairly interpreted and applied.

Because of the Constitution in the United States we enjoy a justice system that is often the envy of much of the world. Although not perfect, it is usually fair and affords every citizen the opportunity to equal treatments under the law.

**Requirement 4** (continued)

DISCUSS the Preamble to the Constitution with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without the Preamble to the Constitution.

**Insure domestic tranquility**

Tranquility means to be safe and feel safe, peaceful, and unafraid. It means that our communities would be without constant disturbance, commotion, rioting, bombings, and uproar. It means that we feel safe in our property that it is protected and that our communities are secure throughout the country. It means that we can go about our day-to-day lives living free of a constant fear of danger to our life or property.

In 1787 keeping the peace was at the forefront of everyone's mind, and the establishment and maintenance of tranquility at home was a major concern.

**Provide for the common defense**

Do you think that "common defense" includes protecting our borders from invasion, threat, and pillaging?

At the time of the drafting of the Constitution none of the individual states were capable of defending themselves against an attack from more powerful nations across the seas. They were worried about Spain, England, and even closer to home attacks from Indians domestically. In short these 13 young colonies truly needed each other in order to be protected in the new and dangerous world of international politics, power, and greed.

**Promote the general welfare**

Promotional general welfare would mean that every citizen in person would have an equal opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. This means that every governmental action should be for the benefit in good of everyone and not just one particular individual, group, or entity.

The way the founders and framers of the Constitution believed, was that the general welfare meant the rules should be applied to all people and must benefit all people.

**And secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity**

All colonists had fought hard and with great sacrifice as recently as a decade before the Constitutional convention was convened. They wanted to experience liberty, freedom, and personal security for themselves and for their posterity. In short they wanted to be free from governmental control. They didn't want to be subject to a monarchy or a king anymore. They certainly didn't want to be subjected to socialism, communism, or any other form of tyranny or despotism.

Most important of all they wanted to make certain that future generations of Americans would have the same privileges, rights, and protections as the colonists had fought so valiantly for in the Revolutionary War against King George and the English armies.

Done



The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. It provides the framework for the organization of the United States Government. The document defines the three main branches of the government: The legislative branch with a bicameral Congress, an executive branch led by the President, and a judicial branch headed Supreme Court. Besides providing for the organization of these branches, the Constitution carefully outlines which powers each branch may exercise. It also reserves numerous rights for the individual states, thereby establishing the United States' federal system of government.

The United States Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and later ratified by conventions in each state in the name of "The People"; it has since been amended twenty-seven times, the first ten amendments being known as the Bill of Rights. The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union was actually the first constitution of the United States of America. The U.S. Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation as the governing document for the United States, and transformed the constitutional basis of government from confederation to federation, also making it the world's oldest federal constitution. The Constitution has a central place in United States law and political culture. The handwritten, or "engrossed", original document is on display at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

**Article 1:** All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

**Article 2:** The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice-President chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows.

**Article 3:** The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

**Article 4:** Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

**Article 5:** The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress

**Article 6:** This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

**Article 7:** The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.



**Requirement 4** (continued)

DISCUSS The Constitution with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without The Constitution.

**Word Match**

(Draw a line between the word and it's definition)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1. Popular Sovereignty</b></p>   | <p>a. Each branch of government has the authority and responsibility to check (restrain) the power of the other two branches. This balance prevents the misuse of power by any one branch.</p>   |
| <p><b>2. A Limited Government</b></p>  | <p>b. Power is shared between national and local governments. This system ensures that the national government is powerful enough to be effective, but that some powers are reserved to the states and to the citizens themselves.</p>                           |
| <p><b>3. Separations of Powers</b></p> | <p>c. Since 1803 it has been established that the federal courts have the power to review acts of the executive and legislative branches. If the court decides that an act or law violates a provision of the Constitution, it can nullify (cancel) the act.</p> |
| <p><b>4. Checks and Balances</b></p>   | <p>d. The government may do only what the people have empowered it to do.</p>  |
| <p><b>5. Judicial Review</b></p>       | <p>e. The people have supreme power. They establish the government, which is subject to the will of the people.</p>  |
| <p><b>6. Federalism</b></p>            | <p>f. The responsibilities of the government are divided among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.</p>  |

*Answer Key: 1.e. 2.d. 3.f. 4.a. 5.c. 6.b.*

Done Discuss the Constitution with your merit badge counselor

How you feel life in the United States might be different without the Constitution. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# *The Bill of Rights*

In the United States, the Bill of Rights is the name by which the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are known. They were introduced by James Madison to the First United States Congress in 1789 as a series of constitutional amendments, and came into effect on December 15, 1791, when they had been ratified by three-fourths of the States. The Bill of Rights limits the powers of the Federal government of the United States, protecting the rights of all citizens, residents and visitors on United States territory.

The Bill of Rights protects the freedoms of speech, press, and religion; the right to keep and bear arms; the freedom of assembly; the freedom to petition; and prohibits unreasonable search and seizure; cruel and unusual punishment; and compelled self-incrimination. The Bill of Rights also prohibits Congress from making any law respecting establishment of religion and prohibits the Federal Government from depriving any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. In Federal, criminal cases, it requires indictment by grand jury for any capital or “infamous crime,” guarantees a speedy public trial with an impartial jury composed of members of the state or judicial district in which the crime occurred, and prohibits double jeopardy. In addition, the Bill of Rights states that “the enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people,” and reserves all powers not granted to the federal government to the citizenry or States. Most of these restrictions were later applied to the states by a series of decisions applying the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which was ratified in 1868, after the American Civil War.

Madison proposed the Bill of Rights while ideological conflict between Federalists and anti-Federalists, dating from the 1787 Philadelphia Convention, threatened the overall ratification of the new national Constitution. It largely responded to the Constitution’s influential opponents, including prominent Founding Fathers, who argued that the Constitution should not be ratified because it failed to protect the basic principles of human liberty. The Bill was influenced by George Mason’s 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights, the 1689 English Bill of Rights, works of the Age of Enlightenment pertaining to natural rights, and earlier English political documents such as Magna Carta (1215).

Two additional articles were proposed to the States; only the final ten articles were ratified quickly and correspond to the First through Tenth Amendments to the Constitution. The first Article, dealing with the number and apportionment of U.S. Representatives, never became part of the Constitution. The second Article, limiting the ability of Congress to increase the salaries of its members, was ratified two centuries later as the 27th Amendment. Though they are incorporated into the document known as the “Bill of Rights”, neither article establishes a right as that term is used today. For that reason, and also because the term had been applied to the first ten amendments long before the 27th Amendment was ratified, the term “Bill of Rights” in modern U.S. usage means only the ten amendments ratified in 1791.

The Bill of Rights plays a central role in American law and government, and remains a fundamental symbol of the freedoms and culture of the nation. One of the original fourteen copies of the Bill of Rights is on public display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



# *The Bill of Rights*

## Constitutional Amendments 1 - 10 The "Bill Of Rights"

**Amendment I** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof; or abridging the freedom of \_\_\_\_\_, or of the \_\_\_\_\_; or the right of the people peaceably to \_\_\_\_\_, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment II** 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 III** 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 IV** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against \_\_\_\_\_ 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 V** 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 offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against \_\_\_\_\_, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without \_\_\_\_\_ of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Amendment VI** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public \_\_\_\_\_, 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 defence.

**Amendment VII** 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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

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

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

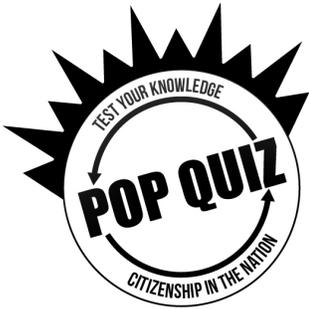
**Amendment X** The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

**Word Key:** Free Exercise Speech Press Assemble Unreasonable Himself Due Process Trial



**Requirement 4** (continued)

DISCUSS The Bill of Rights with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without The Bill of Rights.



**The Bill of Rights *TRUE OR FALSE!***

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were ratified (approved) in 1791  | True | False |
| 2. The Bill of Rights should be named "limitations on government."   | True | False |
| 3. The purpose of the Bill of Rights is to identify the human rights of all people.  | True | False |
| 4. The Bill of Rights prevents government from infringing on those rights.   | True | False |
| 5. Patrick Henry said, "the Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government." | True | False |
| 6. The Constitution does not say the words "Separation of church and state"  | True | False |
| 7. The 5th Amendment protects your right to keep quiet and not reveal incriminating facts against yourself to the government.  | True | False |
| 8. Free speech says that you're allowed to say anything at anytime to anyone.  | True | False |
| 9. Freedom of the press allows you to write your ideas, your opinions, your criticism, and any lies that you see fit to print.   | True | False |
| 10. You are allowed to demonstrate, speak your opinion, protest or object to something without interference from the federal or state government.                        | True | False |
| 11. Citizens have the right to own a gun and safely and responsibly use it.  | True | False |
| 12. The government and police can search your belongings, your home, or your car anytime they want to see if you have something illegal.                                 | True | False |
| 13. Citizens are entitled to a speedy and public trial if charged with a crime.  | True | False |

Answer Key: 8, 9, & 12 are False. 10 it depends. All others are True

Done Discuss the Bill of Rights with your merit badge counselor

How you feel life in the United States might be different without the Bill of Rights. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Requirement 4** (continued)

DISCUSS the Amendments to the Constitution with your Merit Badge Counselor. TELL your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without the Amendments to the Constitution.

Done Discuss Amendments to the Constitution with your merit badge counselor (next page)

How you feel life in the United States might be different without the Amendments. \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes:



## Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution subsequent to the Bill of Rights (Constitutional Amendments 1-10 make up what is known as The Bill of Rights. ) cover many subjects. The majority of the seventeen later amendments stem from continued efforts to expand individual civil or political liberties, while a few are concerned with modifying the basic governmental structure drafted in Philadelphia in 1787. Although the United States Constitution has been amended a total of 27 times, only 26 of the amendments are currently used because the twenty-first amendment supersedes the eighteenth. Before the creation of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, constitutional amendments had already been instituted as part of several early state constitutions. The pioneering framers of these state constitutions recognized the need to incorporate an element of flexibility into Constitutional Law, and they provided for constitutional amendment through the legislature or through special conventions.

However, the first national Constitution of the United States, the Articles of Confederation, did not have such flexibility. Amendment of that document required a unanimous vote of Congress, nearly impossible to achieve.

The Framers of the U.S. Constitution sought to avoid the inflexibility of the Articles of Confederation. James Madison, one of the principle architects of the Constitution, argued in The Federalist Papers that the new compact's amendment procedures, unlike those of the old Articles, protected "equally against that extreme facility, which would render the Constitution too mutable, and that extreme difficulty, which might perpetuate its discovered faults."

Proving the truth of Madison's contention, the first ten amendments to the Constitution were passed as a package by the first session of Congress in 1791. This group of amendments is called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights fulfilled a promise that the backers of the Constitution, known as the Federalists, had made during the ratification procedure of the Constitution. It guarantees specific liberties relating to:

rights of conscience, including the freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceable assembly (First Amendment);  
rights of the accused, including freedom from "unreasonable searches and seizures" (Fourth Amendment), freedom from compulsory Self-Incrimination (Fifth Amendment), the "right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury" and with legal counsel (Sixth Amendment), and freedom from "excessive bail" and "cruel and unusual punishments"(Eighth Amendment); and  
rights of property, including freedom from seizure of property without "due process of law" (Fifth Amendment).

Subsequent amendments have dealt with many different issues, including the extent of federal judicial jurisdiction (Eleventh Amendment [1795]), the method of electing the president (Twelfth Amendment [1804]), the Abolition of Slavery (Thirteenth Amendment [1865]), legalization of the Income Tax (Sixteenth Amendment [1913]), granting women the right to vote (Nineteenth Amendment [1920]), presidential succession (Twenty-Fifth Amendment [1967]), and the voting age (Twenty-Sixth Amendment [1971]).

The Fourteenth Amendment (1868), which holds that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without Due Process of Law; nor deny to any person ... the Equal Protection of the laws," has arguably been the most important and far-reaching of all the amendments, particularly with regard to its Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. Through the Fourteenth Amendment, most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights were eventually applied to the states.



## Requirement 5

LIST the six functions of government as noted in the Preamble to the Constitution.

### **The 6 Functions of Government**

#### **To form a more perfect Union**

To make this country better by embracing a vision of free people, governing themselves.  
establish Justice,

The government's responsibility is to protect those who do obey the law and punish those who do not.

#### **insure domestic Tranquility,**

In order that all may lead a tranquil and quiet life, according to their own conscience, in a godlike and dignified manner.

#### **provide for the common defense,**

All life is held as sacred, with the protection of innocent life at the base of capital punishment. The government is to provide an army for protection from external threats.

#### **promote the general Welfare,**

Civil rulers are servants for the general good. All classes of citizens are to be represented equally by any laws the government may pass. The government may not provide or aid special interest groups above others. It is to promote, not provide, for the people.

#### **and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.**

As stated in the Declaration of Independence, blessings are endowed upon men by their creator, not a privilege granted by government. These blessings include life, liberty, and property. Government cannot provide these, only secure them.



**Requirement 5 (continued)**

DISCUSS with your counselor how the 6 functions of government affect your family and local community.

Done Discuss the 6 functions of government with your merit badge counselor

How you these functions affect your family and local community? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 6**

With your counselor's APPROVAL, CHOOSE a speech of national historical importance.

Scouts will find that most Counselors will accept one of the speeches listed on the next page for completion of this requirement. Remember that there are 100's of other speeches that will also qualify for this requirement. Be sure to get prior approval from the merit badge counselor before selecting a speech to study.

Speech of National Historical Importance I have chosen \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Author or Orator \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Speech \_\_\_\_\_

**Speech Approval**

Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Done TELL your counselor about the person who gave the speech

Notes about the person who gave the speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 6 (continued)**

EXPLAIN the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and TELL how it applies to American citizens today.

Done EXPLAIN the importance of the speech at the time it was given

How does this speech apply to American citizens today? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



# *Speeches of Historical Importance*

- **Susan B. Anthony** - On Women's Right to Vote (1873)
- **George Bush** - Announcing War Against Iraq (1991)
- **George W. Bush** - After September 11th (2001)
- **Jimmy Carter** - Tribute to Hubert Humphrey (1977)
- **Winston Churchill** - Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat (1940)
- Winston Churchill - Their Finest Hour (1940)
- Winston Churchill - "Iron Curtain" (1946)
- **Bill Clinton** - "I Have Sinned" (1998)
- **Frederick Douglass** - The Hypocrisy of American Slavery (1852)
- **Dwight D. Eisenhower** - On the Military-Industrial Complex (1961)
- **Gerald R. Ford** - On Taking Office (1974)
- **William Lloyd Garrison** - On the Death of John Brown (1859)
- **Lou Gehrig** - Farewell to Yankee Fans (1939)
- **Richard Gephardt** - "Life Imitates Farce" (1998)
- **Patrick Henry** - Liberty or Death (1775)
- **Harold Ickes** - What is an American? (1941)
- **Lyndon B. Johnson** - We Shall Overcome (1965)
- **John F. Kennedy** - Inaugural Address (1961)
- John F. Kennedy - "We choose to go to the Moon" (1962)
- John F. Kennedy - Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
- John F. Kennedy - "Ich bin ein Berliner" (1963)
- **Robert F. Kennedy** - On the Death of Martin Luther King (1968)
- **Edward M. Kennedy** - "The Cause Endures" (1980)
- Edward M. Kennedy - Tribute to John F. Kennedy Jr. (1999)
- **Abraham Lincoln** - The Gettysburg Address (1863)
- Abraham Lincoln - Second Inaugural Address (1865)
- **George C. Marshall** - The Marshall Plan (1947)
- **Richard M. Nixon** - "Checkers" (1952)
- Richard M. Nixon - Resigning the Presidency (1974)
- Richard M. Nixon - White House Farewell (1974)
- **William Lyon Phelps** - The Pleasure of Books (1933)
- **Ronald Reagan** - Address to British Parliament (1982)
- Ronald Reagan - On the 40th Anniversary of D-Day (1984)
- Ronald Reagan - On the Challenger Disaster (1986)
- Ronald Reagan - "Tear Down this Wall" (1987)
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt** - First Inaugural Address (1933)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt - Third Inaugural Address (1941)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt - For a Declaration of War (1941)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt - D-Day Prayer (1944)
- **George Graham Vest** - Tribute to Dogs (c1855)
- **George Washington** - Prevents the Revolt of his Officers (1783)
- **Elie Wiesel** - The Perils of Indifference (1999)
- **Woodrow Wilson** - The Fourteen Points (1918)



**Requirement 6** (continued)

CHOOSE a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and TELL your counselor why.

Done TELL your counselor about a sentence from the speech that has meaning to you.

A couple sentences from the speech that have significant meaning to you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why does it have significant meaning to you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

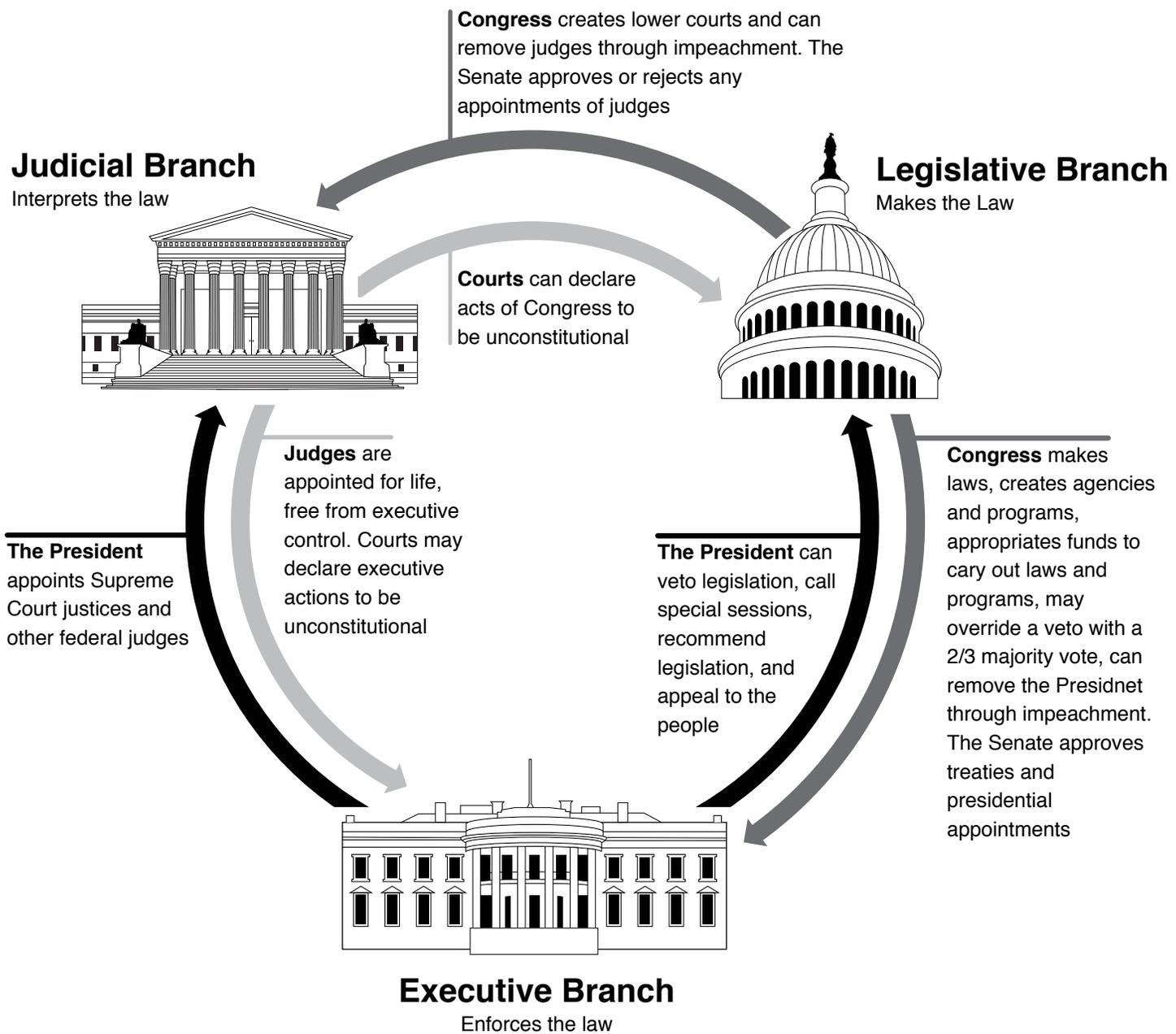


### Requirement 7

NAME the three branches of our federal government.

# Separation of Powers

## A Protective System of Checks and Balances



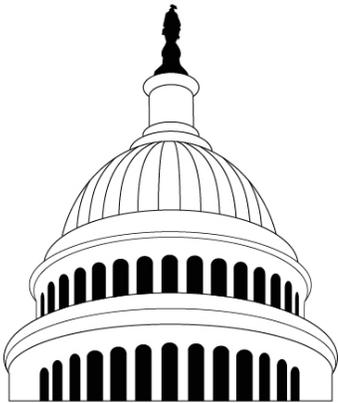
The three branches of the federal government are the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Branch, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch.

**Key words:**  
 Legislative  
 Executive  
 Judicial



**Requirement 7** (continued)

EXPLAIN to your counselor the legislative functions, check and balances, and how citizens are involved.



## The Legislative Branch

The legislative branch of government has the authority to make laws for the nation. It was established in Article I of the Constitution with the creation of Congress. Agencies such as the Government Printing Office, Library of Congress, Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Accountability Office, that provide support services for the Congress are also part of the legislative branch.

Congress is bicameral, that is, it is made up of two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. This system was created by the Founding Fathers after much debate. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention from larger and more populated states wanted congressional representation to be based upon population. Fearing domination, delegates from smaller states wanted equal representation. The Great Compromise resulted in the creation of two houses, with representation based on population in one and with equal representation in the other.

Now members of Congress are elected by a direct vote of the people of the state they represent. It has not always been this way for the Senate. Prior to 1913 and the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, Senators were chosen by their state legislatures. The Senate was viewed as representative of state governments, not of the people. It was the responsibility of Senators to ensure that their state was treated equally in legislation.

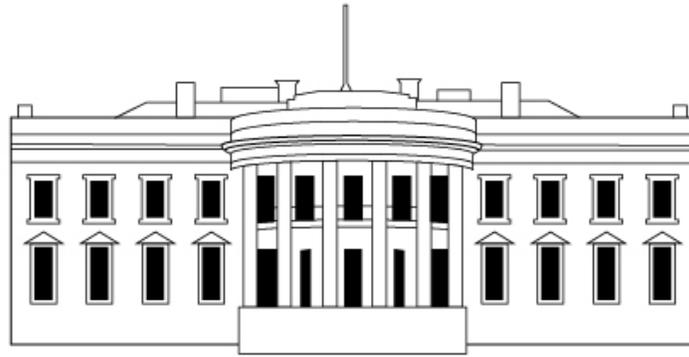
### Checks on the Executive

- Impeachment power (House)
- Trial of impeachments (Senate)
- Selection of the President (House) and Vice President (Senate) in the case of no majority of electoral votes
- May override Presidential vetoes
- Senate approves departmental appointments
- Senate approves treaties and ambassadors
- Approval of replacement Vice President
- Power to declare war
- Power to enact taxes and allocate funds
- President must, from time-to-time, deliver a State of the Union address

### Checks on the Judiciary

- Senate approves federal judges
- Impeachment power (House)
- Trial of impeachments (Senate)
- Power to initiate constitutional amendments
- Power to set courts inferior to the Supreme Court
- Power to set jurisdiction of courts
- Power to alter the size of the Supreme Court
- Checks on the Legislature - because it is bicameral, the Legislative branch has a degree of self-checking.
- Bills must be passed by both houses of Congress
- House must originate revenue bills

Done



## The Executive Branch

When the delegates to the Constitutional Convention created the executive branch of government, they gave the president a limited term of office to lead the government. This was very different from any form of government in Europe and caused much debate. The delegates were afraid of what too much power in the hands of one person might lead to. In the end, with a system of checks and balances included in the Constitution, a single president to manage the executive branch of government was adopted.

The executive branch of Government enforces the laws of the land. When George Washington was president, people recognized that one person could not carry out the duties of the President without advice and assistance. The President receives this help from the Vice President, department heads (Cabinet members), heads of independent agencies, and executive agencies. Unlike the powers of the President, their responsibilities are not defined in the Constitution but each has special powers and functions.

### Checks on the Legislature

- Veto power
- Vice President is President of the Senate
- Commander in chief of the military
- Recess appointments
- Emergency calling into session of one or both houses of Congress
- May force adjournment when both houses cannot agree on adjournment
- Compensation cannot be diminished

### Checks on the Judiciary

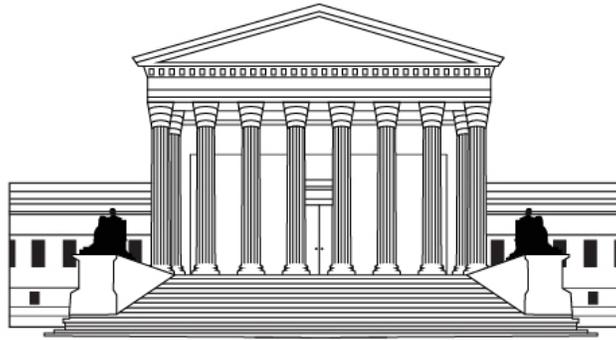
- Power to appoint judges
- Pardon power
- Checks on the Executive
- Vice President and Cabinet can vote that the President is unable to discharge his duties

Many laws enacted by Congress require agencies to issue regulations. Executive branch agencies are granted the power to implement regulations relating to matters within their jurisdiction. For example, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) makes regulations regarding medical issues. Regulations are published daily in the Federal Register and are then codified in the Code of Federal Regulations once a year.

### Requirement 7 (continued)

EXPLAIN to your counselor the executive functions, check and balances, and how citizens are involved.

Done



## The Judicial Branch

The judicial branch of government is established in Article III of the Constitution with the creation of the Supreme Court. This court is the highest court in the country and is empowered with the judicial powers of the government. There are lower Federal courts but they were not created by the Constitution. Rather, Congress deemed them necessary and established them using power granted from the Constitution. Courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they break the rules of the Constitution. A court's authority to decide constitutionality is called judicial review.

### Checks on the Legislature

Judicial review  
 Seats are held on good behavior  
 Compensation cannot be diminished

### Checks on the Executive

Judicial review  
 Chief Justice sits as President of the Senate during presidential impeachment

### Requirement 7 (continued)

EXPLAIN to your counselor the Judicial functions, check and balances, and how citizens are involved.

Done

### Requirement 8

NAME your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Congress \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:**  
 John McCain  
 Jeff Flake  
 Matt Salmon

### Requirement 8 (continued)

WRITE a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her.

WRITE a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her.

SHOW your letter and any response you received to your counselor



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

