

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Clue # 3
Did you know?
Congress is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Constitution has seven Articles (or sections) that detail the layout of the United States government. The first three articles define the powers of the three branches of government. The three branches are the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branch. The Constitution made sure that no one branch of the government could have too much power. This is called "Checks and Balances". This was very important to Americans at the time. They had just broken away from the tight rule of the British government. Other Articles include states' rights and the amendment process.

The introduction paragraph is called the Preamble. The first three words are "We the people". The Preamble is the first part of the Constitution even though it was written last. The Preamble was written by some of the most educated men in America at the time, and it outlined basic rights for all Americans. It made sure that the power was with the citizens, not with a government. The Preamble is primarily a summary of how the government can operate and how the citizens will be treated. The Preamble outlines the basic principles of our democracy. It also introduces the concept of federalism which is the sharing of power between national and state governments.

Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington were some of the Founding Fathers of the Constitution. James Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution".

Question
Who is known as the "Father of the Constitution"?
A. Benjamin Franklin
B. Thomas Jefferson
C. George Washington
D. James Madison

Question
The number of signers of the United States Constitution that...

Clue # 2
Did you know?
Some of the original Constitution included in the Constitution. This is the only other Constitution. Federalists felt that a bill of rights was not necessary because the Constitution intentionally limited the powers of the federal government. The people who opposed, or were against, the Constitution were known as Anti-Federalists. Anti-Federalist leaders included George Mason and Patrick Henry. The Bill of Rights was eventually ratified (approved) in 1791 and included ten amendments guarantee that U.S. citizens have their rights.

The most common method to pass an amendment is a change or after that, if three-fourths of the states pass the amendment, the Constitution and has been officially ratified.

Following men was NOT a Federalist?
A. John Jay
B. George Mason
C. Alexander Hamilton
D. James Madison

of Rights and slavery had not yet been

THINK TANK

ESCAPE ROOM

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

R

- ✓ 4 Half Page Passages
- ✓ 4 Puzzle Decoders
- ✓ Differentiated Version
- ✓ Completion Signs
- ✓ 10 Multiple Choice
- ✓ Teacher Answer Key
- ✓ Teacher Guide
- ✓ Puzzle Hints



4 PASSAGES

Clue # 1

Did you know?

The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. At the time, 18 year old's could be forced to serve in the military but could not vote.

The U.S. Constitution is a document that states how the federal government should operate. It outlines what the federal government can do, as well as what the federal (national) government cannot do. The U.S. Constitution also outlines the three branches of the government. Then, it discusses the purpose of each branch in detail. It was written in the same Pennsylvania State House where the Declaration of Independence was signed. The Constitution was signed on September 17th, 1787. The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world. It outlines basic rights for all Americans.

The United States had a document before the Constitution called the Articles of Confederation. The government did not have a strong central government. The government was made up of 13 states. The government was not able to replace the old government.

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Number of signers of the United States Constitution

Clue # 2

Did you know?

There are Latin words included in the Constitution. This is the only other language aside from English in the Constitution.

Some of the original Framers (writers) were troubled at the idea that the original Constitution lacked a description of individual rights for the people. People known as Federalists (because they supported the federal government) were in favor of the Constitution. Federalists felt that a bill of rights was not necessary because the Constitution intentionally limited the powers of the federal government. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay played leading Federalist roles. The people who opposed, or were against, the Constitution were known as Anti-Federalists. Anti-Federalist leaders included George Mason and Patrick Henry. They were opposed to a strong federal government. They also wanted a list of rights for the people written in the Constitution. The Bill of Rights was eventually ratified (approved) and added to the Constitution. Those ten amendments were added to protect the rights of the people.

Clue # 4

Hint: → then ↓

Did you know?

There were two primary competing plans for the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution was discussed secretly, behind locked doors that were guarded. It took over three months to actually "frame" the Constitution. Constitution Day is celebrated on September 17, which is anniversary of when the Framers signed the document. The ratification, or approval, of the Constitution was in 1789 with the agreement of 9 out of 13 states.

Even though the U.S. Constitution established a democratic system of government, the word "democracy" does not appear in the Constitution. Today, the Constitution is stored in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. All four pages are behind protective glass framed with titanium. The case contains argon gas and is kept at 67 degrees to preserve the parchment's quality.

The Constitution, or plan of government, is the most important document in the history of the United States. Before the Constitution, each of the states operated like individual countries. There was not a strong federal government to hold them all together. There was not even a president to represent the United States. The Constitution created a federal government that allowed the states to operate together, as well as let the states operate partly on their own. It also allowed the states to have basic rights and protections for the citizens.

How many states were needed to ratify the Constitution?

- A. 9
- B. 11
- C. 13
- D. 27

Benjamin Franklin was the oldest Constitution...

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4 DECODERS



PRINT & GO!

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The first paragraph of the Constitution is called the Preamble. The first three words of the Preamble are "We the People". The Preamble is the first part of the Constitution even though it was written last. The Preamble was written by some of the most educated men in America at the time, and it outlined basic rights for all Americans. It made sure that the power was with the citizens, not with a government. The Preamble is primarily a summary of how the government can operate and how the citizens will be treated. The Preamble outlines the basic principles of our democracy. It also introduces the concept of federalism which is the sharing of power between national and state governments.

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F V E O L < > V E

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1

READ THE
PASSAGE

2

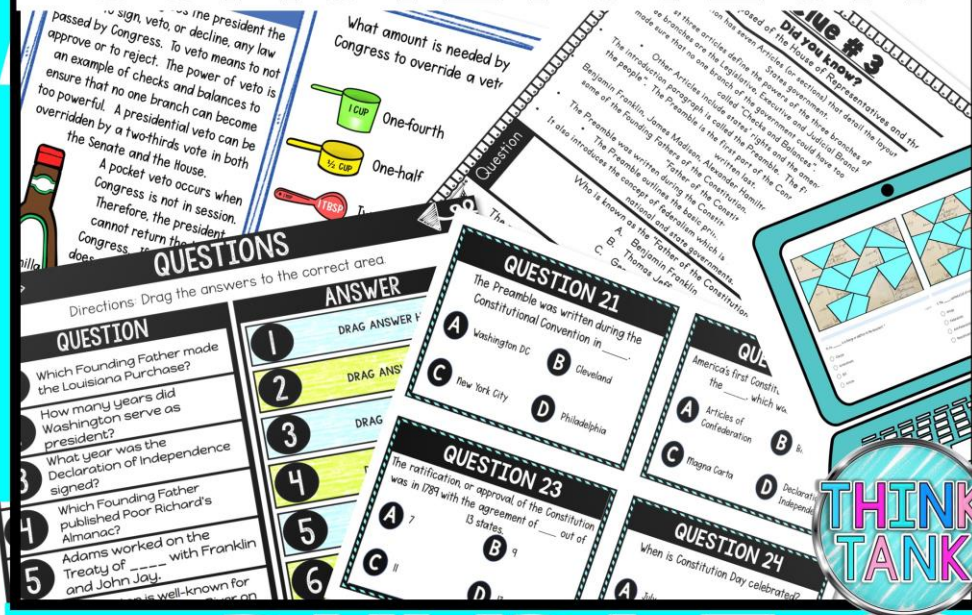
ANSWER
QUESTIONS

3

DECODE
PUZZLES

BUNDLE & SAVE

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION



BUNDLE

GRAB THE
BUNDLE
AND SAVE
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The U.S. Constitution bundle has everything you need to cover your Civics and Government unit from the Founding Fathers to the Bill of Rights. This bundle includes 17 unique activities to keep your students engaged from beginning to end.