

# YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:

## BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT ESCAPE ROOM



Now with formative questions!



## U.S. Constitution Escape Room



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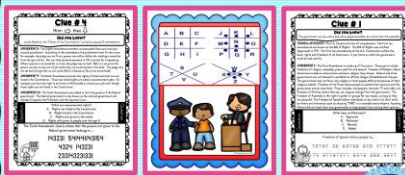


## Legislative Executive & Judicial Branch

### ESCAPE ROOMS BUNDLE!



## BILL OF RIGHTS ESCAPE ROOM



Now with formative questions!



## Constitutional Convention Escape Room



Now with formative questions!



## Articles of Confederation Digital Escape

360°



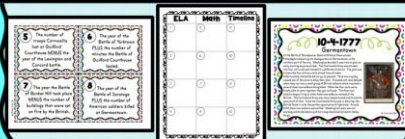
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# WANT TO TRY A SCAVENGER HUNT?

## Battles of the American Revolution Scavenger Hunt



## Causes of the American Revolution Scavenger Hunt



## Follow Me!





# STUDENT DIRECTIONS

Make sure you have a yellow, blue and green highlighter or crayon. You will also need a pen or pencil.

Read the passage, mark your text, answer the questions on the back.

Complete BOTH sides of the worksheet.

READING  
PASSAGE

## SAMPLE PASSAGE

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. At the time, 18 year olds could be forced to serve in the military, but could not vote.

The U.S. Constitution was written in the same Pennsylvania State House where the Declaration of Independence was signed. "Pennsylvania" is spelled wrong in the document.

The Constitution was signed on September 17th, 1787. The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America.

The Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

The Constitution is stored in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. All four copies are behind protective glass framed with titanium. The cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 degrees to preserve the parchment's quality.

Over the past 230 years, more than 11,000 amendments, or changes, have been introduced in Congress.

As of 2019, twenty seven of those have received the necessary approval from the states to become an amendment.

The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. Those ten amendments guarantee that U.S. citizens have their rights protected. The Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791.

**WORDS TO KNOW**

Constitution- written plan of government  
Supreme- highest ranking  
Ratified- approved  
Congress- the law-making body

**SYMBOLS**

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

♥ Your favorite fact

**COLOR**

**[YELLOW]** How is the Constitution stored?

**[GREEN]** Changes in the last 230 years

**[BLUE]** Where was the document written?

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TEXT  
MARKING  
DIRECTIONS

WORDS TO  
KNOW LIST

# SHAYS' REBELLION

In 1786, the new country was struggling to create a successful government under the Articles of Confederation. An uprising known as Shays' Rebellion, proved to many people that the country needed a new set of rules.

Farmers in Massachusetts were struggling to keep their farms. After serving as soldiers in the Revolutionary War, they had not been paid fairly. Businesses wanted the farmers to pay for their debts immediately instead of allowing the farmers to pay their bills over time. Massachusetts had no paper money, and gold and silver were difficult for the farmers to come by. Sheriffs took over the farms, and owners were thrown in jail when they could not pay their debts. People were also upset that taxes were higher than they had been before the Revolution. A farmer named Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran, was among those leading a rebellion against the government to solve these problems. This series of protests grew into a group of men carrying guns that became known as Shays' Rebellion.

Farmers began their protests peacefully. They owed money and felt unappreciated and ignored. As these peaceful efforts became angrier as groups of protestors blocked courthouses where farmers were being sent to prison for unpaid bills. While the Massachusetts legislature appeared to offer understanding, a law was passed allowing sheriffs to arrest many of the protestors. The governor of Massachusetts, James Bowdoin, decided to confront the protestors with an armed military force. This stopped the rebellion, but it did not solve the debt problem. At the next election, the voters of Massachusetts voted to remove Governor Bowdoin from office.

The results of Shays' Rebellion highlighted why some viewed the Articles of Confederation as too weak to solve a problem between state and federal issues. Some supported a strong, centralized government and were called Federalists. Others were more interested in maintaining power with the states, and they were called Anti-Federalists. Eventually, Shays' Rebellion led to an increased desire to create a new Constitution that would increase the power of the Federal government.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- Debts - money owed
- Rebellion - An act of resistance
- Legislature - Law making body

## SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

♡ Your favorite fact

## COLOR

YELLOW

Who was the governor of Massachusetts?

GREEN

Why did farmers protest?

BLUE

Which group supported a strong central government?

# ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

## CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

When were the Articles of Confederation ratified?

1781

1776

1787

How many states required approval to change the Articles of Confederation?

9

11

13

What was the only branch created under the Articles of Confederation?

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

## TRUE OR FALSE

The Articles also failed to create the Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court, to deal with the interpretation of the laws the Executive Branch created.

TRUE

FALSE

The biggest problem with the Articles was that it did not allow the central government to collect taxes.

TRUE

FALSE

After gaining independence from Great Britain, American Colonists did not want to create another powerful \_\_\_\_\_ government.

The Articles gave Congress the power to pass laws but no power to make sure the laws were \_\_\_\_\_.

## WORD SEARCH

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

APPROVAL  
 TAXES  
 JUDICIAL  
 EXECUTIVE  
 JUDICIAL  
 WEAK  
 ARTICLES  
 CONGRESS  
 RATIFIED



# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

In need of a plan for the new government, representatives from all states were invited to meet in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787. Many arrived believing they would be working to fix the Articles of Confederation, but a majority voted to create a brand new set of rules. Some argued that if they had known that would be the plan, they would not have shown up. After much debate, they agreed that this would be a Constitutional Convention, and they chose George Washington to be the president of the Convention.

The people attending the convention were called delegates. Each state, except Rhode Island, sent multiple delegates to the convention, but when it came time to vote, each state received only one vote. This was an advantage to the smaller states. When discussing how to share power in the Federal government, the delegates from small states disagreed with the delegates from larger states.

Edmund Randolph proposed a plan which was called The Virginia Plan. It increased representation for states with large population, wealth, and land. It also triggered an argument over whether slaves should be included in the population count. The Southern states were in favor of this because it would increase their numbers and also their power in Congress.

The smaller states thought the Virginia Plan was unfair. William Patterson presented The New Jersey Plan. This plan allowed all states equal power no matter how many people lived in each state or how much land they controlled. The New Jersey Plan would be one vote per state to preserve the independence of all thirteen states. Both sides believed their plans were better, and neither side wanted to back down.

Eventually, parts of both plans were combined into what was called the Great Compromise. The lower branch of government would have two houses. The lower house would be based on how many people lived in each state, with larger states having more representatives. The upper house would have the same number of representatives from each state, giving the smaller states the same power as the larger states.

## WORDS TO KNOW

Majority - more than half

Delegates - representatives

Compromise - each side gets a little of what they want

## SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

! Something that surprised you

♡ Your favorite fact

## COLOR

YELLOW 

Who was president of the Convention?

GREEN 

What was the Great Compromise?

BLUE 

What was the New Jersey Plan?

# THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

## CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

Which amendment gave \_\_\_\_\_ the right to vote?

13th

14th

19th

Which branch includes the \_\_\_\_\_ in Chief?

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Which branch includes the federal courts?

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

## TRUE OR FALSE

The creation of three branches is known as "checks and balances."

TRUE

FALSE

So far, there have been forty-seven amendments, or changes to the U.S. Constitution.

TRUE

FALSE

The Commander in Chief has authority over the \_\_\_\_\_

The House of Representatives is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ of each state.

## WORD SEARCH

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

SENATE  
 CONGRESS  
 PRESIDENT  
 EXECUTIVE  
 COURTS  
 JUDICIAL  
 BRANCHES  
 AMENDMENT  
 BALANCES