

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The United States 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. They discuss the purpose of each branch in detail. The document is important because it protects the freedoms and rights of the citizens. It defines basic rights for all Americans. The Constitution is organized into seven different parts called Articles. The U.S. Constitution is the oldest government document that is still in use today.

The United States had a document before the Constitution called the Articles of Confederation. The Articles of Confederation had many major problems. The Articles did not allow the government to collect money. In turn, the government did not have any money to operate. In 1787, this issue and others were discussed at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Here, the Constitution was drafted to replace the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution created a system of federal government that could operate without impacting the basic rights of any of the citizens. At the Constitutional Convention, the writers decided that the government needed three branches to operate. The three branches created a balance of power within the federal government. Each branch has a clear purpose, but none can become too powerful. This was very important to Americans at the time. They had just broken away from the tight grip of the British government. The three branches include the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch.

The opening part of the Constitution is called the Preamble. This

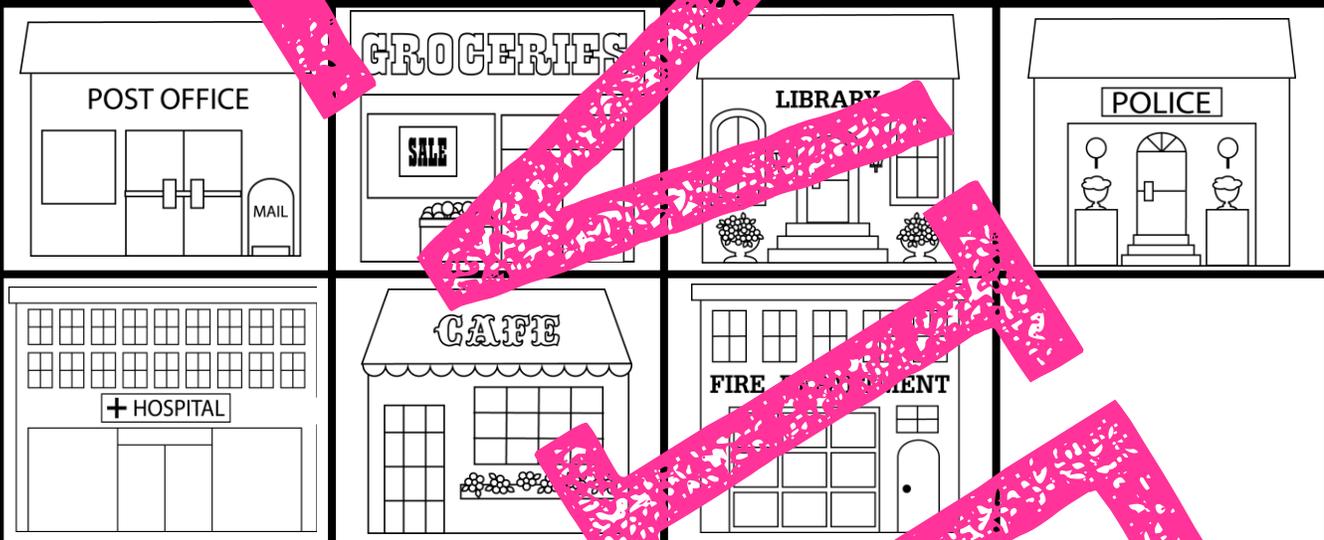
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



3

What is another word for federal?



State



Territory



National



Country

4

What word means change or addition?



Amendment



Clause



Article



Preamble

5

Which US document came just before the Constitution?



Magna Carta



Mayflower Compact



Bill of Rights



Articles of Confederation

6

When was the Bill of Rights adopted?



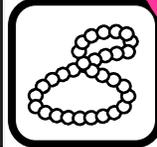
1787



1791



1789



1790

15

The three branches created a balance of power within the government.



Interpretation



State



Federal



Country

16

The colonies had just broken away from the tight rule of the government.



British



French



Spanish



German

17

What is the opening part of the Constitution called?



Resolution



Preamble



Grievances



Article I

18

Which of the following is not a US branch of government?



Legislative



Judicial



Supreme Court



Executive

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

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