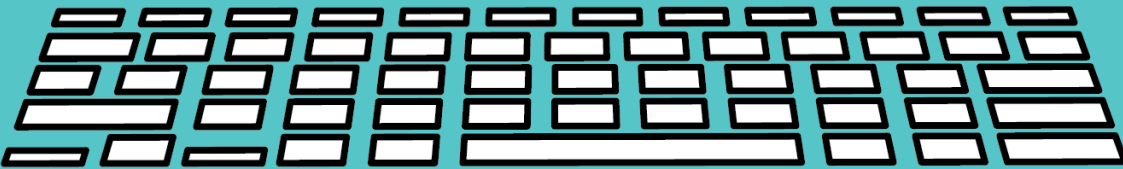
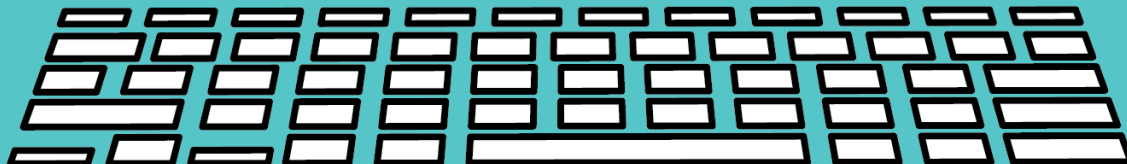


THE U.S. CONSTITUTION CAN BE INTRODUCED WITH JUST FIFTY TWO WORDS

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What year was the Constitution written?	
2. What branch of the government is covered in Article I?	
3. What are the first three words of the Preamble?	
4. Who was the primary author of the Bill of Rights?	
5. What year was the Bill of Rights added?	
6. In what city is Independence Hall?	
7. How many houses is Congress divided into?	
8. What are the first ten amendments known as?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What year was the Constitution written?		9. The Founding Fathers met at ____ Hall.	
2. What branch of the government is covered in Article I?		10. Power rests in the body of the ____ in a republic.	
3. What are the first three words of the Preamble?		11. Separation of Powers divides roles into ____ branches.	
4. Who was the primary author of the Bill of Rights?		12. The Constitution consists of ____ principles.	
5. What year was the Bill of Rights added?		13. Founding Fathers are also known as ____ the Constitution.	
6. In what city is Independence Hall?		14. ____ states had to ____ or approve the Constitution.	
7. How many houses is Congress divided into?		15. Powers given only state governments are called ____ powers.	
8. What are the first ten amendments known as?		16. Separation of Powers originated from the writings of ____.	



PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

The United States Constitution was written in 1787. The Founding Fathers, also called the Framers, met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and James Madison were some of the Framers of the Constitution. After the Constitution was written, it was sent to the states to be approved. Eventually, all states approved it.

The United States Constitution consists of seven parts. The seven Principles of the Constitution are: 1. Preamble, 2. Article I, 3. Article II, 4. Article III, 5. Article IV, 6. Article V, and 7. Article VI. The Framers of the Constitution had a political philosophy called Federalism. The Framers of the Constitution wanted to create the framework for an effective government that would be against tyranny.

REPUBLICANISM The Framers of the Constitution wanted to ensure people would have a voice in the government. A republican form of government where the power rests in the hands of citizens. Republicanism is based on the idea that citizens can exercise power by voting for people to represent them in political positions.

An important concept of Republicanism is that citizens need to be informed about politics and vote. Citizens can vote for people that represent their own opinions and political views.

Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution says, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government." In this clause, it is stated that all states will need to have a Republican form of government.

SEPARATION OF POWERS The principle of Separation of Powers divides the basic government roles into 3 branches. It was established to avoid giving too much power to the hands of a single group. Separation of Powers originated from the writings of Montesquieu who supported a constitutional government with three separate branches. Montesquieu was a French judge and political philosopher.

The Legislative Branch, or Article I, makes the laws. Congress is divided into two houses: the Senate, and the House of Representatives. The Executive Branch, or Article II, executes or enforces the laws and is headed by the president. The Judicial Branch, or Article III, interprets the laws and includes the federal courts.

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CHECKS AND BALANCES Checks and Balances offers a balance of power among the branches. With a system of Checks and Balances, each branch acts as a check or control on the powers of the other branches.

This principle was created to prevent tyranny or absolute control by one branch. The Framers included a system of Checks and Balances to ensure that the branches work together fairly. This principle prevents any one branch from becoming too powerful. Example: Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT Limited Government means that everyone is bound by the U.S. Constitution. People are bound by a set of rules or by the "Supreme Law of the Land". This principle ensures that no one is above the law. Every American citizen must obey the law, even the president.

Limited Government was important to the citizens because they feared a second tyranny, like King George III. The Framers restricted the power of government and made sure the government could only do what the people allowed it to do.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY Popular Sovereignty is a political philosophy in which the people have power. The concept of Popular Sovereignty is evident in the first words of the Preamble, We the People. Citizens vote for people to represent them in government positions. Popular Sovereignty was another protection against tyranny. The phrase 'Popular Sovereignty' is not written in the Constitution.

FEDERALISM The United States government is referred to as a federal government. With Federalism, power is divided and shared between the nation and the states. Powers given only to the federal government are called delegated powers. Powers given only to state governments are called reserved powers. Powers shared between the national and state governments are called concurrent powers. Guidelines for federalism are set forth by the 10th Amendment.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. These amendments protect the people from an overly powerful government. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. The primary author of the Bill of Rights is James Madison.

The Bill of Rights guarantees certain individual personal freedoms. The individual rights of the people are protected and cannot be taken away by the federal government. Some individual rights, or liberties, include freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion.

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