THE CONSTITUTION

A Quick Look
It represents our belief in:

- Power of govt. comes from the people
- Government power is limited
- Ordered, organized and structured govt.
- Representative democracy
- Written, May 1787 to Sept. 1787
- 7,000 words
- Longest lasting constitution in history
- Greatest symbol of democracy in the world
PREAMBLE

WE THE PEOPLE

of the United States,

• in order to form a more perfect Union
  • establish Justice
  • ensure domestic Tranquility
  • provide for the common defense
  • 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.
Article 1

Legislative Branch
Makes the law

• Section 1--House of Representatives and Senate
• Section 2 & 3---Qualifications for Congress
• Section 4---Elections and Meetings
• Section 5---Rules of Order
• Section 6---Pay Privileges
• Section 7---How Bills Become Laws
• Section 8---Powers of Congress
• Section 9---Powers Denied to Congress
• Section 10---Powers Denied to States
POWERS OF CONGRESS

Article 1 Section 8

- Makes the law
- Power to tax
- To coin money
- Regulate foreign and interstate trade
- Raise and maintain armed forces
- Declare war
- Grant patents and copyrights
- Building hydroelectric dams
- Interstate highway system
- Prohibit racial discrimination
Article 2

Executive Branch

Signs, carries out or executes the law into action

- Section 1 --- Qualifications of President & Vice President
- Section 2 --- Presidential Powers
- Section 3 --- Presidential Duties
- Section 4 --- Impeachment
Article 2

Executive Power

- Signs or enforces the law
- Veto power
- Commander in Chief
- Ask for a declaration of war
- Enter into a treaty
- Grants pardons and reprieves
- Appoints ambassadors, judges and cabinet
- Call a special session of Congress

President Bush signing a proposed bill of Congress into law
Article 3

Judicial Branch
Interpretst he law (constitution)

• Section 1---Qualifications of Judges
• Section 2---Jurisdiction of Courts
• Section 3---Treason
Article 4

Concerning the States

• Section 1---rights and duties of states
• Section 2---rights and liabilities of citizens
• Section 3---admitting new states
• Section 4---guarantee to states
**Article 5**

Amending the Constitution---adding on or changing the Constitution---27 Amendments

**Article 6**

Constitution, law of the land.....Supremacy Clause

**Article 7**

Ratification of Constitution by 9 states
Major Principles of the Constitution

- **Popular Sovereignty**
  - The **people** rule the government.

- **Federalism**
  - Power is **divided** between the **national** and **state** government.
  - Federal/National Government is now supreme however!

- **Separation of Powers**
  - Divides the federal government into the **legislative, executive, and judicial branches**.
  - Does not allow one group to take control.
Major Principles of the Constitution

- Checks and Balances
  - Each branch of government has power over the other.
  - President can veto or kill laws passed by Congress.
  - Congress can override the veto with a 2/3 vote.
  - The Supreme Court makes sure laws past by Congress are constitutional.
  - The President appoints judges.
  - Senate approves judge appointments.
Major Principles of the Constitution

• Judicial Review
  • The Supreme Court determines a law/rule/etc at the federal, state, or local level is Constitutional or not.
  • Marbury v. Madison established this policy.

• Limited Government
  • Everything is spelled out and only as much government as necessary.
  • Most powers and responsibilities are described.
  • Not in the Constitution, left to the people.
1. **FREEDOM** of Religion, Press, Speech, Assembly, Petition
2. **RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**
3. No **QUARTERING** of soldiers in peacetime
4. No **UNREASONABLE SEARCH** and SEIZURE
5. **PROTECTION** of ACCUSED
6. **RIGHT TO A SPEEDY, PUBLIC TRIAL BY JURY**
7. **TRIAL BY JURY IN CIVIL SUITS**
8. **NO EXCESSIVE FINES or CRUEL PUNISHMENT**
9. **POWERS RESERVED TO THE PEOPLE**
10. **POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Time Required for Ratification</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st–10th</td>
<td>Bill of Rights</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>2 years, 2 months, 20 days</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Immunity of States from certain lawsuits</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>11 months, 3 days</td>
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<td>12th</td>
<td>Changes in electoral college procedures</td>
<td>1804</td>
<td>6 months, 6 days</td>
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<td>13th</td>
<td>Abolition of slavery</td>
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<td>14th</td>
<td>Citizenship, due process, equal protection</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>2 years, 26 days</td>
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<td>15th</td>
<td>No denial of vote because of race, color, or previous enslavement</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>11 months, 8 days</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Power of Congress to tax incomes</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>3 years, 6 months, 22 days</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Popular election of U.S. Senators</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>10 months, 26 days</td>
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<td>18th</td>
<td>Prohibition of alcohol</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>1 year, 29 days</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>Woman suffrage</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1 year, 2 months, 14 days</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Change of dates for start of presidential and Congressional terms</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>10 months, 21 days</td>
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<td>21st</td>
<td>Repeal of Prohibition (18th Amendment)</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>9 months, 15 days</td>
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<td>22nd</td>
<td>Limit on presidential terms</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>3 years, 11 months, 6 days</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>District of Columbia vote in presidential elections</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>9 months, 13 days</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Ban of tax payment as voter qualification</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1 year, 4 months, 27 days</td>
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<td>25th</td>
<td>Presidential succession, vice presidential vacancy, and presidential disability</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>Voting age of 18</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Congressional pay</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>202 years, 7 months, 12 days</td>
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