



# **WE THE PEOPLE.....**

## **The Constitution of the United States**

**The Constitution of the United States of America was drafted in 1787. The Judicial, Executive, and Legislative Branches of the government came into effect in 1789. The main purpose of the constitution is to establish the basic rights of all American citizens.**



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Dear Teacher,

**Protect The Harvest** is pleased to offer Government by the People-Series 5, “WE THE PEOPLE...The Constitution of the United States,” for your use. Our core beliefs are twofold about this curriculum: First, we should teach our youth about the primary purpose of the Constitution.

Second, teaching students everything they need to know about the Constitution, our country’s history, and its rules and regulations. Here, students engage in open dialog about our great nation’s history, to help build an educated community of Americans, ready to change the world for the better.

We founded **Protect The Harvest** to protect America’s values, our right to own property, the right to farm, ranch, hunt and fish. This curriculum is designed to assist you in teaching and engaging your students in the most exciting task of participating in our governance as all American citizens.

Sincerely,



**Forrest Lucas**, Founder & Executive Director

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# ***It Takes All Kinds of Kinds What Kind Are You?\****

***Our Mission:* INFORM. PROTECT. RESPOND.**

**INFORM** and **EDUCATE** Americans about the activities of animal rights groups, anti-agriculture groups and other non-governmental organizations that threaten agriculture, animal welfare, our traditions, and way of life.

**PROTECT** our freedoms and way of life by supporting agriculture, land use, hunting and fishing, animal ownership and animal welfare.

**RESPOND** to laws, regulations or misinformation that would negatively impact animal welfare, animal ownership, and restrict our rights and limit our freedoms.



*\*You could be forced to give up your freedom to hunt, fish and own animals. / Learn More about this at: **ProtectTheHarvest.com***



# INTRODUCTION

**Estimated Time:** 2.5 hours

To understand in the United States, the government runs by a set of rules that are called laws. These laws created the government, including the presidency, the Supreme Court, and Congress, and are called the Constitution. The U.S. Constitution is also meant to protect the rights of every person living in this country.



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# TEACHER'S GUIDE

**Lesson #1:** Have the students make a list of first ten amendments of the constitution, ask them what this list is called.

Go over each of the first ten amendments, having your students write what each amendment means to them. Ask your students to make a list of “who” the rights of the first ten amendments protect.

## **Lesson #2:**

What Is the Constitution?

Describe here:

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Identify the two houses of Congress.

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What is the Bill of Rights?

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Who are the Framers?

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**Lesson #3:** Study the important dates of the Constitution of the United States. Ask your students to list 4, then ask why these 4 are important to them.



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Admiralty and Maritime Law:** comes from the general maritime law of nations and has been modified to also apply to the Great Lakes and all navigable rivers in the United States.

**Amendment:** a formal change to the United States Constitution. As of 2008 there are twenty-seven amendments or “changes” to the Constitution.

**Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union:** an agreement among the 13 original states of the United States of America that served as its first constitution.

**Bad Tendency Doctrine:** allows legislatures to make illegal speech that could encourage people to engage in illegal action.

**Balanced Budget:** a philosophy with the objective of not spending more money than is taken in by the government.

**Bicameral Legislature:** refers to a two-house legislature.

**Bill of Attainder:** a legislative act that authorizes punishment of a person or group often without a trial.

**Bill of Rights:** the first ten amendments to the US Constitution, ratified in 1791 and guaranteeing such rights as the freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship.

**Bipartisanship:** emphasizes cooperation between the major political parties.

**Cabinet:** a group of governmental officials who head various departments in the Executive Branch and advise the president.

**Checks and Balances:** a system set by the Constitution in which the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government have the power to check each other to maintain a “balance” of power.

**Clear and Present Danger:** an interpretation of the First Amendment to the Constitution that gives the government the right to curtail activities that may in some way threaten the security of the United States.

**Cloture:** the procedure for ending debate in the United States Senate.

**Coattail Effect:** the influence on the outcome of an election that a popular or unpopular candidate has on the other candidates on the same party ticket.

**Concurrent Powers:** powers that are shared by the federal government and the state governments.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Congress:** a National Legislative body, especially that of the U.S. The U.S. Congress, which meets at the Capital in Washington, D.C., was established by the Constitution of 1787 and is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**Constitutional Home Rule:** constitutional authorization for parts of the local government to conduct their own affairs.

**Cooperative Federalism:** when the state governments, local governments, and the federal government share responsibility. This has been referred to as the “New Federalism”.

**Crossover Voting:** this is part of the open primary system in which the voters are not required to vote based upon their party affiliation.

**Deficit Spending:** a practice by the government of spending more money than it takes in during a specific time period.

**Delegated Power:** powers that are exclusively for the federal government and are “enumerated” in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

**Democracy:** the governmental philosophy in which the people ideally have a high degree of control over political leaders.

**Detente:** a relaxation of tension between countries.

**Direct Democracy:** a political process in which the people can have direct control over the government in making decisions. In colonial America this was the New England town meeting and today could be exemplified by the referendum.

**Discharge Petition:** a petition signed by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives to force a bill from committee and bring it to the floor for consideration.

**Domestic Tranquility:** peace at home.

**Electoral College:** the name for the “indirect” process by which the people elect the president. The “electors” are determined by the number of representatives each state (including Washington, D.C.) has in the House of Representatives and Senate. In a presidential election year, the “electors” meet in their respective state capitals on the first Monday after the second Wednesday to “vote” for the President.

**Enumeration:** mentioning (several things) one by one.

**Ex Post Fact Law:** a law that makes an act a crime after it was committed.

**Exclusionary Rule:** this is a judicial doctrine based on the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution which protects the American people from illegal searches and seizures. Any evidence obtained in this manner would be inadmissible in a court proceeding.

**Executive Agreement:** an agreement between the President of the United States and another country that does not require the advice and consent of the Senate.



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Executive Branch:** one of the three branches of our government with the purpose of enforcing laws.

**Express Powers:** powers specifically granted to the federal government as enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

**Federal Supremacy Clause:** this refers to Article VI, Section 2 of the United States Constitution that states that the Constitution and all federal laws and treaties shall be the “supreme law of the land.”

**Federalism:** the division of power between the national government (delegated power) and the state governments (reserved power).

**Filibuster:** the technique used in the United States Senate to delay proceedings and prevent a vote on a controversial issue.

**Free Enterprise:** an economic system in which one makes decisions on what products to make, how much of that product to produce, and how to establish the price.

**Full Faith and Credit Clause:** a constitutional provision in Article IV of the Constitution that requires all states to honor the laws, judgments, and public documents of every other state.

**Gerrymandering:** the construction of an election district to give a distinct advantage to one party or group over another. This process was named after Elbridge Gerry.

**Governance:** exercise of authority; control.

**Home Style:** the technique used by a member of Congress to properly present himself/herself to constituents.

**House of Representatives:** the “lower” house of Congress in which states are represented based on population. Presently there are 435 members in this body.

**Ideology:** an interrelated set of attitudes and beliefs about political philosophy and the role of power in the government.

**Impeachment:** a Constitutional “check” the Congress has on the President or other high federal officials. It involves an accusation against that official.

**Implied Power:** a power that is not really stated directly but is “implied” in Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution. This is called the “necessary and proper” clause of the “elastic” clause.

**Impoundment:** when the president refuses to allow an agency of the government to spend funds authorized and allocated by Congress.

**Inalienable Rights:** the natural rights of all men defined by John Locke as life, liberty, and property that can only be taken away by God. Government is created to protect these rights.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Incumbency:** one who holds public office that normally carry some type of electoral advantage.

**Indirect Democracy:** a political process in which the people control the government through elected political officials. This is also called a republic.

**Inherent Powers:** those powers the federal government exercises in foreign affairs which are not specifically stated in the Constitution. They are available because of the status the United States has as a national government.

**Initiative:** the procedure that allows voters to “initiate” legislation by obtaining signatures on a petition.

**Integration:** refers to the coordination of working arrangements where multiple departments or public sector organizations are involved in delivering a public service or program.

**Interstate Compact:** an agreement among or between states that is approved by Congress.

**Line Item Veto:** the authority of the executive (often the governor) to veto parts of bill without vetoing the entire piece of legislation.

**Joint Committee:** a committee made up of members of both houses of government in order to speed action on the legislation.

**Judicial Branch:** one of the three branches of our government with the purpose of interpreting laws.

**Judicial Review:** a power the Supreme Court conferred upon itself in the 1803 case of Marbury v. Madison (1803) to review the constitutionality of acts passed by Congress or actions by the president.

**Jus Sanguinis:** citizenship acquired by citizenship of the parents.

**Jus Soli:** citizenship acquired by place of birth.

**Justice:** just behavior or treatment.

**Laissez Faire:** a French term meaning to let alone. This refers that the government should not get involved with the peoples’ lives.

**Lame Duck:** an official who has been defeated in the election, but his/her term of office has not expired.

**Lobbyist:** a person who works for an organized special interest group, association, or corporation. An attempt is made to influence policy decisions primarily in the legislative branch of government.

**Localism:** when states or certain areas tend to act independently and not as a part of the country.

**Long Ballot:** originated in the 1820s because of the belief that the voting population should be able to elect all the officials that govern them.

**Loose Interpretation:** a Hamiltonian view of the Constitution that advocates the idea that the federal government has a wide range of powers as implied in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Maintaining Election:** an election that indicates the existence of a pattern of partisan support.

**Majority Floor Leader:** the legislative position held by an important party member who is chosen by the majority party in caucus or conference. The job is designed to keep members of that party in line and determine the agenda of that branch of government.

**Members of Congress:** 100 Serve in the U.S. Senate and 435 Serve in U.S. House of Representatives.

**Minority Floor Leader:** the party leader in each house of government elected by the minority party.

**National Debt:** the total amount of money the government owes.

**National Security Council:** a part of the executive branch of government that is a planning and advisory group whose function is to assist the president on matters of national security.

**Necessary and Proper Clause:** the “implied powers” clause located in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution. It states that aside from the enumerated powers given to the federal government, it also has the power to pass any law that can be traced back to those powers “delegated” in the Constitution.

**Nominating Convention:** a “meeting” in which a political party will choose its candidate for president.

**Oligarchy:** government control is in the hands of limited number of people who are chosen based on wealth and power.

**Override:** means to “overrule” and refers to the aspect of the “checks and balances” system in which Congress can override a presidential veto by a two-thirds vote.

**Pocket Veto:** the constitutional procedure that president may use to prevent a bill from coming a law without giving specific reasons.

**Political Action Committee:** a legal organization whose function it is to collect money and make campaign contributions to selected candidates.

**Political Efficacy:** the belief that one can have a forceful and meaningful impact on public affairs.

**Political Machine:** an organization for running a city or state government by dispensing patronage or favors from the smallest units of government (neighborhood or ward) to the largest. The head of this organization is called a “boss.”

**Poll Tax:** the requirement that a person must pay a certain amount of money in order to vote. This was found to be unconstitutional in 1964 by the Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the Constitution.

**Posterity:** all future generations of people.

**Preamble:** refers to the introduction of an important document that explains the reason and the purpose of its content.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**President Pro Tempore:** the senior member of the majority party in the Senate who serves as the president of the Senate when the Vice President is absent.

**Primary Election:** an election held before the general election to determine the main candidates representing the various parties.

**Primary Election:** an election held to determine the various candidates chosen from that party to run for political office.

**Prior Restraint:** limiting First Amendment rights prior to the actual activity that would carry out that freedom (a speech being made, a movie being shown, a newspaper or book being published, etc.).

**Public Domain:** the lands held by the state or federal government.

**Recall Election:** a special election called by voters to remove an elected official before his/her term expires.

**Red Tape:** a way of describing dissatisfaction with the workings of a bureaucracy in terms of inefficiency, mismanagement, and frustration.

**Referendum:** the procedure that allows voters to vote directly on issues instead of going through the “indirect” process of having legislators vote for those issues.

**Representative Government:** also known as an “indirect democracy” or a republic. This is when the people elect “representatives” to make laws for their benefit.

**Republic:** the type of government in which voters elect representatives to make the laws for the country.

**Reserved Power:** powers that are “reserved” for the states as identified in the Tenth amendment to the Constitution.

**Retrospective Voting:** voting that takes into consideration such things as the performance of the political party, the officeholder, and/or the administration.

**Safe Seat:** is an electoral district in a legislative body which is regarded as fully secure, for either a certain political party, or the incumbent representative personally or combination of both.

**Sedition:** the attempt to overthrow a government by force or at least interrupt its activities.

**Senate:** one of the two houses of Congress historically known as the “upper” house that contains two representatives from each state regardless of population. Presently there are 100 members in this body.

**Senatorial Courtesy:** the custom in the United States Senate to refer the names of possible appointees (specifically federal judges) to senators from the states from which the appointees reside and withdrawing the names of those appointees that these senators regard as objectionable.

**Separation of Powers:** the philosophy of a balanced government in which each of the three branches (executive, legislative, judicial) have their own powers.



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Socialism:** a type of government that believes its major role should be on the concentration of national planning and public ownership of business.

**Sovereignty:** the source of a government's power or authority.

**Speaker of the House:** the presiding officer of the United States House of Representatives who is selected by a caucus of his/her party and is formally elected by the entire House.

**Spoils System:** the practice of rewarding those who worked in a successful political campaign by giving them governmental jobs.

**Standing Committee:** the name given to a permanent congressional committee.

**States' Rights:** the belief that the individual states had/have more power than the federal government.

**Strict Interpretation:** a Jeffersonian view of the Constitution that advocates the idea that the federal government has only those powers as identified in Article I, Section 8.

**Suffrage:** the right or privilege of voting.

**The Senate and House of Representatives:** a congressman or congresswoman is a member of the House of Representatives, which is one of the two houses of the Congress. The United States Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives, which is a body of elected officials who represent individual districts in their home states.

**Ticket Splitting:** the practice of voting for candidates without taking into consideration their political affiliation.

**Totalitarian Government:** the type of government that is characterized by a single party or individual controlling the entire country and every aspect of society.

**Tranquility:** the quality or state of being tranquil; calm.

**Tyranny:** description of a government that is cruel or unjust.

**Unconstitutional:** a legislative act or presidential action that violates the Constitution based on the interpretation of the Supreme Court.

**Unicameral Legislature:** refers to a one-house legislature.

**Unitary System:** a type of government that concentrates power in the central government.

**Unite Rule:** a rule that the entire delegation to a party convention must cast its vote based upon the rule of the majority.

**Veto:** to reject or refuse to sign a bill from Congress. This is the "check" that the president has on the powers of the legislative branch of government.

**Whip:** the party leader who is the "intermediary" between the leadership and the rank and file in the legislature.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

The Constitution of the United States of America was drafted in 1787. The Judicial, Executive and Legislative Branches of the government came into effect in 1789. The main purpose of the constitution is to establish the basic rights of all American citizens.

Note: The **Judicial Branch** is the part of the U.S. government that interprets the law and administers justice.

The **Executive** is the branch of government that is responsible for the day-to-day management of the state.

The **Legislative Branch** is the part of the United States government that creates laws. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the nation. It was officially adopted on September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has been amended twenty-seven times since then. The first three articles of the constitution describe three branches of the federal government and provides a set of rules and regulations they must follow. It also confers them with individual powers. The three branches include a Legislature, a Bicameral Congress, and a Federal Judiciary.

The **Bill of Rights is the First 10 Amendments to the Constitution**. It spells out Americans' rights in relation to their government. It guarantees civil rights and liberties to the individual—like freedom of speech, press, and religion. It sets rules for due process of law and reserves all powers not delegated to the Federal Government to the people or the States. It specifies that “the enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

## Bill of Rights

The **First Amendment** provides several rights and protections: to express ideas through speech and the press, to assemble or gather with a group to protest or for other reasons, and to ask the government to fix problems. It also protects the right to religious beliefs and practices. It prevents the government from creating or favoring a religion.

The **Second Amendment** protects the right to keep and bear arms.

The **Third Amendment** prevents government from forcing homeowners to allow soldiers to use their homes. Before the Revolutionary War, laws gave British soldiers the right to take over private homes.

The **Fourth Amendment** bars the government from unreasonable search and seizure of an individual or their private property.

The **Fifth Amendment** provides several protections for people accused of crimes. It states that serious criminal charges must be started by a grand jury. A person cannot be tried twice for the same offense (double jeopardy) or have property taken away without just compensation. People have the right against self-incrimination and cannot be imprisoned without due process of law (fair procedures and trials.)



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

The **Sixth Amendment** provides additional protections to people accused of crimes, such as the right to a speedy and public trial, trial by an impartial jury in criminal cases, and to be informed of criminal charges. Witnesses must face the accused, and the accused is allowed his or her own witnesses and to be represented by a lawyer.

The **Seventh Amendment** extends the right to a jury trial in Federal civil cases.

The **Eighth Amendment** bars excessive bail and fines and cruel and unusual punishment.

The **Ninth Amendment** states that listing specific rights in the Constitution does not mean that people do not have other rights that have not been spelled out.

The **Tenth Amendment** says that the Federal Government only has those powers delegated in the Constitution. If it isn't listed, it belongs to the states or to the people.

## Importance of the Constitution

The Constitution of the United States of America defines a framework for the country's law and order. It addresses the need for the integration of the various states, initially the thirteen colonies, within unified legal paradigms. It is not only the shortest, but also one of the oldest written constitutions in world history. Its main purpose is clearly determined in the Preamble.

This draft establishes:

- The foundation of legal authority, along the governance of which the citizens of the United States of America can design individual contributions.
- Framework of the federal government of the United States.

The U.S. Constitution provides the government with the framework for the organization of the government. The draft clearly defines the responsibilities of:

- The bicameral Congress governance within the legislative branch of the government.
- The President as the head of the government's executive branch.
- The Supreme Court as head of the judicial branch of the government.

## Purpose of the Constitution

The primary purpose of the Constitution is to provide a sense of direction to the organization of the three branches of the U.S. Government, the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial.

This outlines the individual and combined powers of each branch, while reserving the rights of each individual state. It defines the importance of jury trials, civil liberties and duties, and the accountability of the government.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

**The Preamble** establishes the importance of the Union, and the need for a common line of defense to ensure general welfare of the American community. It also very clearly defines that the federal government does not enjoy authority outside the established clauses in the Preamble.

**The U.S. Constitution** also spells out the following civil liberties:

- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom to media access
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of petition

It specifies the following rights of individuals:

- Right to possess firearms
- Right to question arrests and property seizures without a warrant
- Right to a public trial for criminal offenses
- Right to question excessive bail or unusual punishment

The Constitution describes the legislative paradigms of the Congress' bicameral body, qualifications of representatives, and the duties of the Senate and House of Representatives. Similarly, in the judicial specifications, it emphasizes on the role of the United States Supreme Court in the enactment of laws.

The Presidency is defined in the segment that highlights the Executive branch of the government. The oath, powers and duties are enumerated, alongside disqualification on the grounds of impeachment. The draft describes the desired interdependency and extradition between the states, civil privileges and immunities, taxation limitations, and the procedure by which the constitution could be amended or altered in the future.

In simple words, the constitution was actually created for the states by the states, and basically says how the government should behave. It somewhat restricts the powers of the government, says how it should be run, protects minorities from the possible abuse of majority rule, and protects the privacy and property rights of the people.



# We the People

of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, 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 I.

SECTION 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty-five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.] The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

SECTION 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one-third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

SECTION 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Place of Chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

SECTION 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECTION 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

SECTION 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

SECTION 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;



SECTION 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; — to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; — to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; — to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; — to Controversies between two or more States; — between a State and Citizens of another State; — between Citizens of different States; — between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

SECTION 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attained.

## Article IV.

SECTION 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

SECTION 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

SECTION 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

SECTION 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

## Article V.

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

## Article VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

## Article VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done

in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

Delaware { George Read  
Gunning Bedford jun  
John Dickinson  
Richard Bassett  
Jacob Broom  
James M. Smith

New York { Dan of the Seneca  
Dan Carroll  
John Blair -  
James Madison Jr.

Virginia {

North Carolina { Wm. Blount  
Richd. Dobbs Knight

South Carolina { Wm. Williamson  
J. Rutledge  
Charles C. Pinckney  
Charles Pinckney  
Pierce Butler

Georgia { William Few  
Abner Nash

New Hampshire { John Langdon  
Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts { Nathaniel Gorham  
Rufus King  
Wm. Saml. Johnson

Connecticut { Roger Sherman  
Micaiah Hamilla

New York { Wm. Livingston  
David W. Kearney

New Jersey { Wm. Paterson  
Jona. Dayton

Pennsylvania { John Mifflin  
Thomas Mifflin  
Robert Morris  
Geo. Clymer  
Thos. Fitzsimons  
Jared Ingersoll  
James Wilson  
Gardner D. Warren



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

## The United States Constitution

**We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure 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.

**The Constitution acted like a colossal merger**, uniting a group of states with different interests, laws, and cultures. Under America's first national government, the Articles of Confederation, the states acted together only for specific purposes. The Constitution united its citizens as members of a whole, vesting the power of the union in the people. Without it, the American Experiment might have ended as quickly as it had begun.

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On September 25, 1789, the First Congress of the United States proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution. The 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the amendments is on display in the Rotunda in the National Archives Museum. Ten of the proposed 12 amendments were ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures on December 15, 1791. The ratified Articles (Articles 3–12) constitute the first 10 amendments of the Constitution, or the U.S. Bill of Rights. In 1992, 203 years after it was proposed, Article 2 was ratified as the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. Article 1 was never ratified.

Transcription of the 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress Proposing 12 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

**THE** Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

**RESOLVED** by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

**ARTICLES** in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## AMENDMENT XI

*Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.*

**Note:** Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

## AMENDMENT XII

*Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.*

**Note:** A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.]\* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

\*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.



# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## AMENDMENT XIII

*Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.*

**Note:** A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

### Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

### Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT XIV

*Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.*

**Note:** Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

### Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

### Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,\* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

## Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

## Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*\*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

## AMENDMENT XV

*Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.*

### Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

### Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT XVI

*Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.*

**Note:** Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

## AMENDMENT XVII

*Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.*

**Note:** Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branches of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

## AMENDMENT XVIII

*Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.*

### Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

### Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.



# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## AMENDMENT XIX

*Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.*

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT XX

*Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

**Note:** Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

### Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

### Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

### Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

### Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

## Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

## AMENDMENT XXI

*Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.*

### Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

### Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

### Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

## AMENDMENT XXII

*Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.*

### Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

## AMENDMENT XXIII

*Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.*

### Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

### Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT XXIV

*Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.*

### Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

### Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## AMENDMENT XXV

*Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.*

**Note:** Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

### Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

### Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

### Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

### Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

# THE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS 11-27

## AMENDMENT XXVI

*Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.*

**Note:** Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

### Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

### Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## AMENDMENT XXVII

*Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.*

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.



We the People  
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common  
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Const

## Article

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Sen  
of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States  
in each State shall have <sup>two</sup> Representatives, or a greater or less Number, than the Number of Representatives in the  
Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of  
and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to  
Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and  
not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress  
and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they may by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not ex  
thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative.

Until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall have three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and  
entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and

eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Authority thereof shall fill such Vacancies.  
The House of Representatives shall choose their Speakers and other Officers, and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.





# WORKSHEET #1

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

**Directions:** The U.S. Constitution was approved by the Constitutional Congress and sent to the states for ratification in September 1787. What do you know about the Constitution? Write the missing word or words in the blanks below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the president of the Constitutional Convention.
2. Delegates from \_\_\_\_\_ states attended the Convention.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was written to replace the Articles of Confederation.
4. Under the \_\_\_\_\_ each state remained independent.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ united the states as one nation.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ passed four years after the Constitutional Convention ensures individual rights.

# WORKSHEET #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## They Signed the Constitution

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the  
LAST NAMES of the 39 signers  
of the US Constitution in the grid.  
Repeated names appear only once.  
Look for them in all directions  
including backwards and diagonally.

Connecticut  
William Samuel JOHNSON  
Roger SHERMAN

Delaware  
Richard BASSETT  
Gunning BEDFORD, Jr.  
Jacob BROOM  
John DICKINSON  
George READ

Georgia  
Abraham BALDWIN  
William FEW, Jr.

Maryland  
Daniel CARROLL  
Daniel JENIFER  
James MCHENRY

Massachusetts  
Nathaniel GORHAM  
Rufus KING

New Hampshire  
Nicholas GILMAN  
John LANGDON

New Jersey  
David BREARLY  
Jonathan DAYTON  
William LIVINGSTON  
William PATERSON

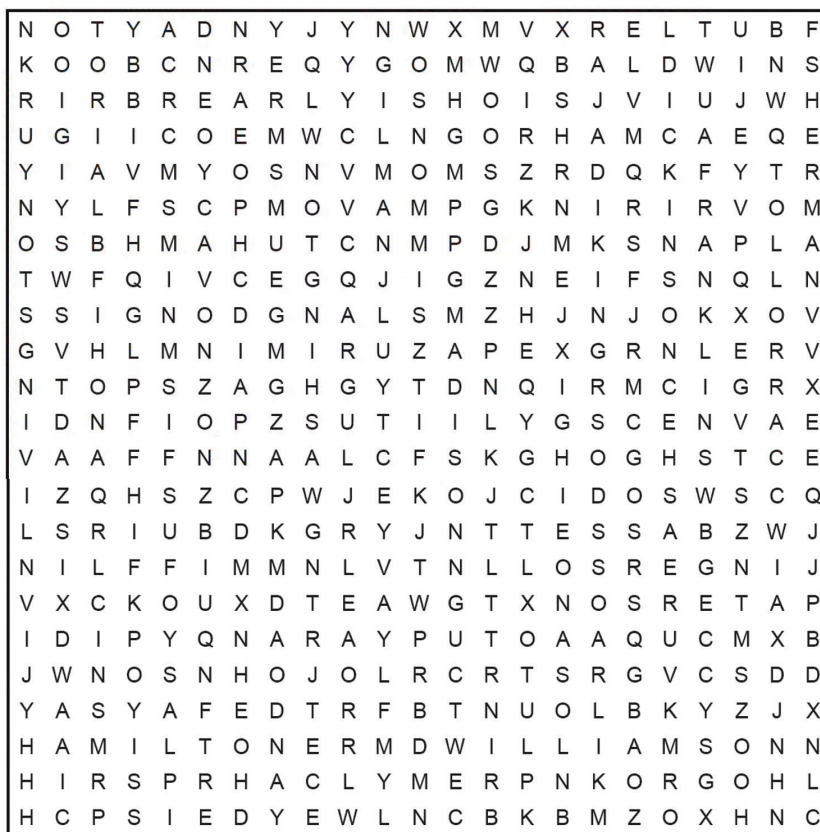
New York  
Alexander HAMILTON

North Carolina  
William BLOUNT  
Richard Dobbs SPAIGHT  
Hugh WILLIAMSON

Pennsylvania  
George CLYMER  
Thomas FITZSIMMONS  
Benjamin FRANKLIN  
Jared INGERSOLL  
Thomas MIFFLIN  
Gouverneur MORRIS  
Robert MORRIS  
James WILSON

South Carolina  
Pierce BUTLER  
Charles PINCKNEY  
Charles Cotesworth PINCKNEY  
John RUTLEDGE

Virginia  
John BLAIR  
James MADISON  
George WASHINGTON



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES - A HISTORY

## A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE CREATION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

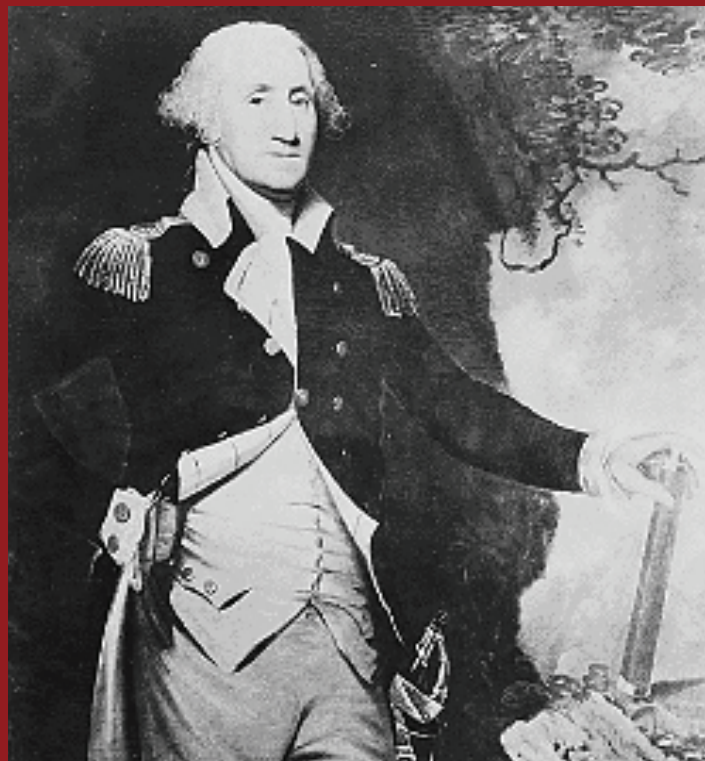
May 25, 1787, freshly spread dirt covered the cobblestone street in front of the Pennsylvania State House, protecting the men inside from the sound of passing carriages and carts. Guards stood at the entrances to ensure that the curious were kept at a distance. Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, the “financier” of the Revolution, opened the proceedings with a nomination--Gen. George Washington for the presidency of the Constitutional Convention. The vote was unanimous. With characteristic ceremonial modesty, the general expressed his embarrassment at his lack of qualifications to preside over such an august body and apologized for any errors into which he might fall in the course of its deliberations.

To many of those assembled, especially to the small, boyish-looking, 36-year-old delegate from Virginia, James Madison, the general’s mere presence boded well for the convention, for the illustrious Washington gave to the gathering an air of importance and legitimacy, but his decision to attend the convention had been an agonizing one. The Father of the Country had almost remained at home.

Suffering from rheumatism, despondent over the loss of a brother, absorbed in the management of Mount Vernon, and doubting that the convention would accomplish very much or that many men of stature would attend, Washington delayed accepting the invitation to attend for several months. Torn between the hazards of lending his reputation to a gathering perhaps doomed to failure and the chance that the public would view his reluctance to attend with a critical eye, the general finally agreed to make the trip. James Madison was pleased.

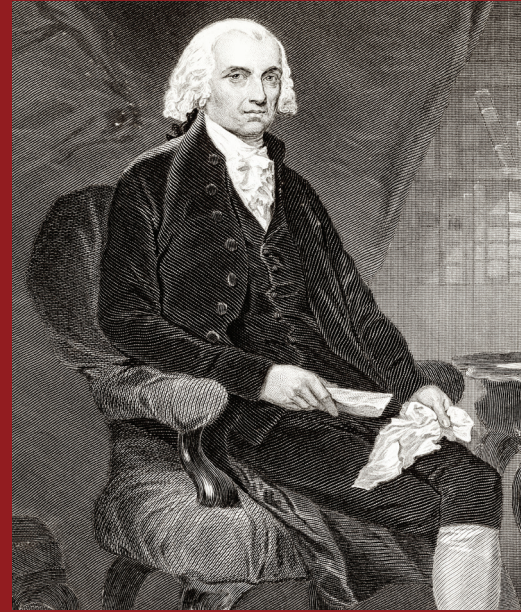
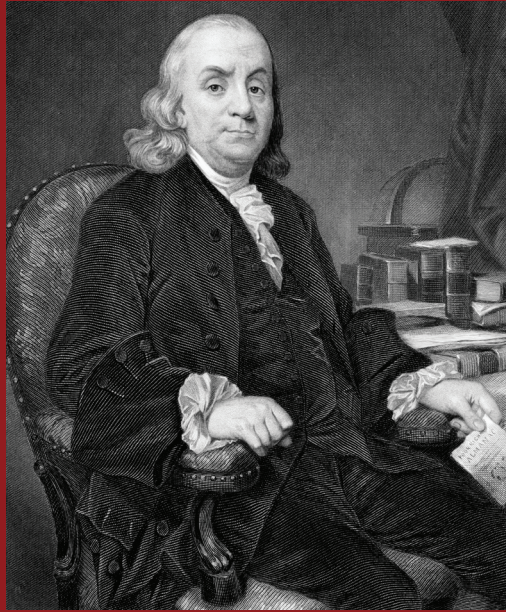
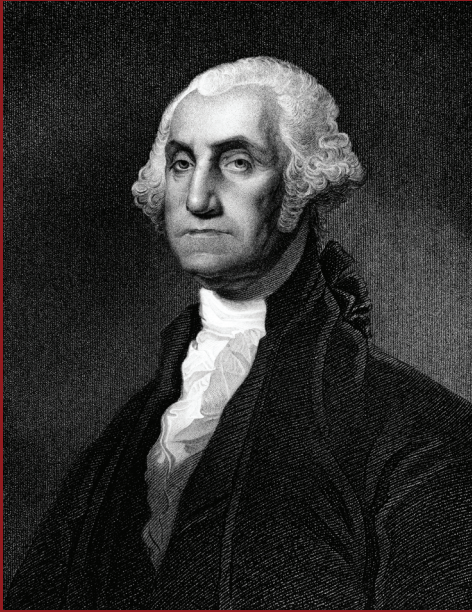
### General George Washington

He was unanimously elected president of the Philadelphia convention.





# MEET THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION



## FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- The framers are the 55 men who wrote the Constitution
- These men were farmers, lawyers, and merchants; many fought in the American Revolution
- These men included George Washington, Ben Franklin, James Madison and Gouverneur Morris

The original states, except Rhode Island, collectively appointed 70 individuals to the Constitutional Convention. A number of these individuals did not accept appointment or could not attend. They include Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams and John Hancock. In all, 55 delegates attended the Constitutional Convention sessions, but only 39 signed the Constitution. The delegates ranged in age from Jonathan Dayton, aged 26, to Benjamin Franklin, aged 81, who was so infirm that he had to be carried to sessions in a sedan chair.

# MEET THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION

(\* indicates delegates who did not sign the Constitution)

## Connecticut

- o Oliver Ellsworth (Elsworth)\*
- o William. Samuel Johnson
- o Roger Sherman

## Delaware

- o Richard Bassett
- o Gunning Bedford, Jr.
- o Jacob Broom
- o John Dickinson
- o George Read

## Georgia

- o Abraham Baldwin
- o William Few
- o William Houston\*
- o William L. Pierce\*

## Maryland

- o Daniel Carroll
- o Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer
- o Luther Martin\*
- o James McHenry
- o John F. Mercer\*

## Massachusetts

- o Elbridge Gerry\*
- o Nathaniel Gorham
- o Rufus King
- o Caleb Strong\*

## New Hampshire

- o Nicholas Gilman
- o John Langdon

## New Jersey

- o David Brearly (Brearley)
- o Jonathan Dayton
- o William C. Houston\*
- o William Livingston
- o William Paterson (Patterson)

## New York

- o Alexander Hamilton
- o John Lansing, Jr.\*
- o Robert Yates\*

## North Carolina

- o William. Blount
- o William R. Davie\*
- o Alexander Martin\*
- o Richard. Dobbs Spaight
- o Hugh Williamson

## Pennsylvania

- o George Clymer
- o Thomas Fitzsimons  
(FitzSimons; Fitzsimmons)
- o Benjamin Franklin
- o Jared Ingersoll
- o Thomas Mifflin
- o Gouverneur Morris
- o Robert Morris
- o James Wilson

## Rhode Island

- o Rhode Island did not send any delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

## South Carolina

- o Pierce Butler
- o Charles Pinckney
- o Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
- o John Rutledge

## Virginia

- o John Blair
- o James Madison Jr.
- o George Mason\*
- o James McClurg\*
- o Edmund J. Randolph\*
- o George Washington
- o George Wythe\*

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# DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 3, 1783**

The United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris and Great Britain signs a separate treaty with France and Spain.

**December 23, 1783**

General George Washington resigns his commission as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

**January 14, 1784**

The official end of the Revolutionary War takes place when Congress ratifies the Treaty of Paris.

**February 24, 1785**

Congress appoints John Adams to be the United States ambassador to Great Britain.

**March 10, 1785**

Congress appoints Thomas Jefferson to be the United States ambassador to France.

**March 28, 1785**

Delegates from Maryland and Virginia meet at Mt. Vernon to discuss navigation conflicts on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. George Washington serves as host and it becomes known as the Mount Vernon Conference.

**May 25, 1787**

The Constitutional Convention opens with a quorum of seven states in Philadelphia to discuss revising the Articles of Confederation. Eventually, all states but Rhode Island are represented.

**July 13, 1787**

Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance which sets up a process by which a territory becomes a state. The ordinance also calls for the banning of slavery in the Northwest Territory.

**July 16, 1787**

Roger Sherman proposes the Connecticut Compromise — an agreement between the two extremes of the Virginia and New Jersey Plans that dealt with representation in the legislative branch of government (Congress). It has also been referred to as the Great Compromise.

**September 17, 1787**

All 12 state delegations approve the Constitution, 39 delegates sign it of the 42 present, and the Convention formally adjourns.

**October 27, 1787**

A series of articles in support of the ratification are published in New York's "The Independent Journal." They become known as the "Federalist Papers."

**December 7, 1787**

Delaware is the first state to ratify the Constitution.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 21, 1788**

The Constitution becomes effective for the ratifying states when new Hampshire is the ninth state to ratify it.

**February 4, 1789**

The first presidential election takes place, but the results will not be known until April 6.

**March 4, 1789**

The first Congress under the Constitution convenes in New York City.

**April 1, 1789**

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg from Pennsylvania is chosen as the first Speaker of House.

**April 6, 1789**

George Washington is elected the first President of the United States under the Constitution with 69 electoral votes. John Adams is elected Vice President with 34 votes.

**April 30, 1789**

George Washington is inaugurated as the first President of the United States.

**June 8, 1789**

James Madison introduces the proposed Bill of Rights in the House of Representatives.

**July 27, 1789**

Congress organizes the first executive department and names it the Department of State on September 15.

**August 7, 1789**

Congress organizes the War Department.

**September 2, 1789**

Congress organizes the Treasury Department.

**September 11, 1789**

Alexander Hamilton is appointed Secretary of the Treasury.

**September 24, 1789**

Congress establishes a Supreme Court, 13 district courts, 3 ad hoc circuit courts, and the position of Attorney General.

**September 25, 1789**

Congress approves 12 amendments and sends them to the states for ratification.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 26, 1789**

Edmund Randolph is appointed Attorney General, John Jay as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State.

**November 20, 1789**

New Jersey is the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

**February 2, 1790**

The Supreme Court convenes for the first time.

**May 29, 1790**

Rhode Island is the last state to ratify the Constitution.

**December 6, 1790**

The capital of the country “moves” from New York to Philadelphia until the new capital along the Potomac is completed.

**March 4, 1791**

Vermont becomes a part of the Union as the 14th state.

**December 15, 1791**

Virginia ratifies the Bill of Rights, and 10 of the 12 proposed amendments become part of the U.S. Constitution.

# FAMOUS QUOTES ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION

“I confess that there are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them. For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information, or fuller consideration, to change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise.”

— **Benjamin Franklin, 1787**

“My political curiosity, exclusive of my anxious solicitude for the public welfare, leads me to ask who authorized them (the framers of the Constitution) to speak the language of ‘We, the People,’ instead of ‘We, the States’?”

— **Patrick Henry, 1788 (Orations of American Orators)**

“As the British Constitution is the most subtle organism which has proceeded from the womb and long gestation of progressive history, so the American Constitution is, so far as I can see, the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.”

— **W. E. Gladstone**

“The Constitution, on this hypothesis, is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please.”

— **Thomas Jefferson**

“I am exceedingly distressed at the proceedings of the Convention—being ... almost sure, they will ... lay the foundation of a Civil War.”

— **Elbridge Gerry (Massachusetts Delegate), 1787**

“I consider the difference between a system founded on the legislatures only, and one founded on the people, to be the true difference between a league or treaty and a constitution.”

— **James Madison, at the Constitutional Convention, 1787**

“Let our government be like that of the solar system. Let the general government be like the sun and the states the planets, repelled yet attracted, and the whole moving regularly and harmoniously in several orbits.”

— **John Dickinson (Delaware Delegate), 1787**



# CONCLUSION

Please download and review the four documents below:

## **#1 - Government by The People**

Download at:

<http://protecttheharvest.com/get-involved/educational-resources/government-by-the-people/>

This booklet will teach students to identify the three branches and the levels of Government matching the roles of each branch as assigned by the United States Constitution and the constitution of each state to the branch with the responsibility at the federal, state and local levels of government.

For continued learning about the government in the student's home jurisdiction, the student can participate in the government by attending government public meetings and understand voting. Learning this portion will help understand why government is vital to our agriculture communities.

## **#2 - Civic and Agriculture Boards That Run Your World**

Download at:

<http://protecttheharvest.com/get-involved/educational-resources/government-by-the-people/>

Boards and commissions, whether appointed or elected, make the rules and provide management oversight for many government services. For an agricultural community, the importance of the fair boards, drainage boards, school boards, library boards and the Cooperative Extension Board is obvious. Yet few people pay much attention to the work of the boards, let alone sit on them. This unit is meant to help the students start to think about how their government works and how they might participate to improve agricultural law and policy.

## **#3 - State Legislative Resources for Students**

Download at:

<http://protecttheharvest.com/get-involved/educational-resources/government-by-the-people/>

This booklet is an excellent hands-on way to learn about and participate in the legislative process of the student's State and how the legislative process works for Agriculture. It also works to educate our students on the definition of agriculture in protecting the science, art, or occupation concerned with cultivating land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding, and raising livestock; animal ownership, farming, ranching, hunting and fishing.

# CONCLUSION

## #4 – How to be a Good Citizen

Download at:

<http://protecttheharvest.com/get-involved/educational-resources/government-by-the-people/>

This booklet shows students they can be good citizens by being involved with their local communities, in obeying the laws, being honest, respecting the property of others, voting in elections and staying informed about what's happening in their communities. The students can be resourceful in making the community a better place which includes following rules and regulations that are in place for the purpose of safety and well-being. A good citizen of a community takes the responsibility of learning about the history of their town and county, learning about the people who serve our country and who are present and past leaders of their community, and studying how each student can better the society and the people around them.

Protect The Harvest will continue to add to the “Government by The People” curriculum series to educate our youth on the essential components to run our local communities, counties and state’s legislation, preparing our youth to be good citizens and become our further leaders in our Agriculture Communities.

## Resources

<https://historyplex.com/what-is-purpose-of-constitution-of-united-states>

<https://www.archives.gov/>

<http://homeschoolcreations.com>

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript>

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/more-perfect-union>

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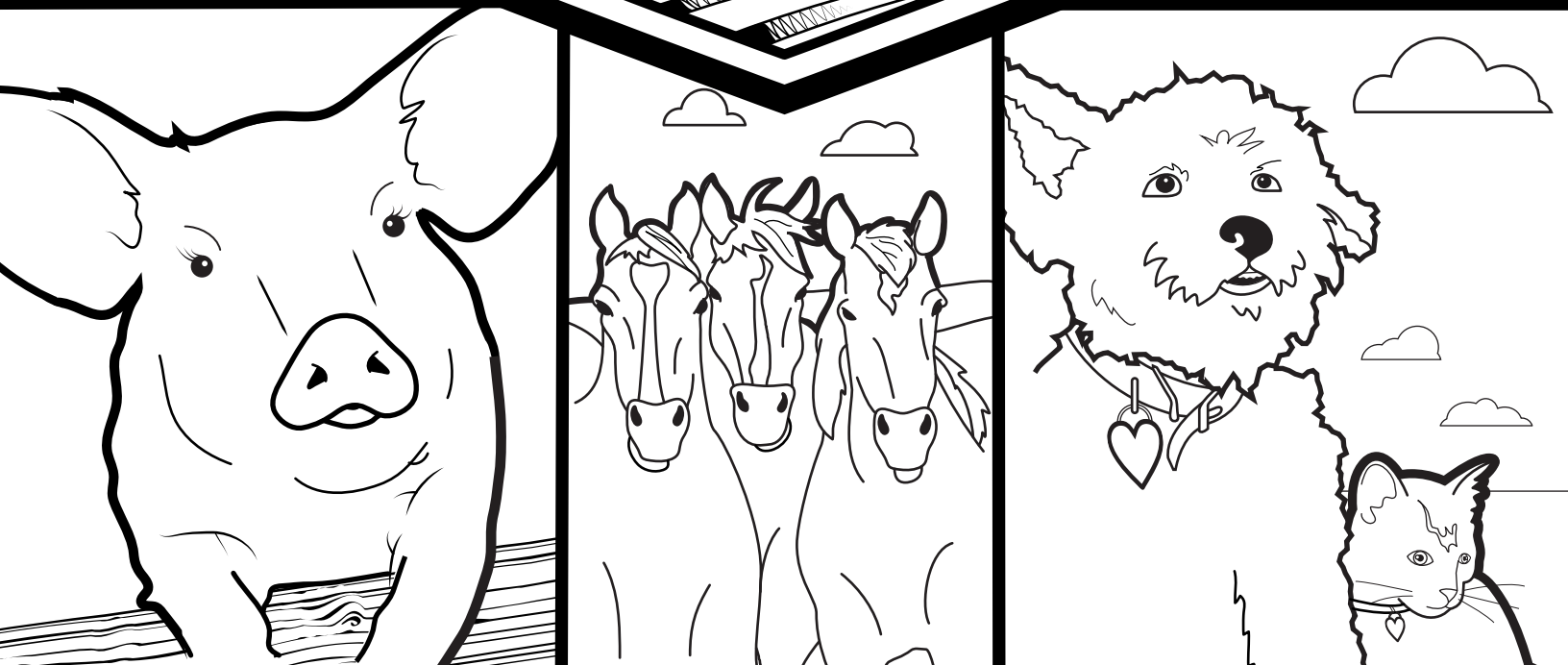
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