

Understanding the Constitution

Grade 5 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students explain the purposes of the Constitution's Preamble, articles, and selected amendments. • Standards: D2.Civ.3.3-5

Read each question carefully and write your answer. Think about the different parts of the Constitution and what each part does for our country.

1. The Preamble is the opening statement of the Constitution. Does it list the goals of our government? (Yes or No)
2. Which part of the Constitution creates the three branches of government: the Preamble or the Articles?
3. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech and religion. Is the First Amendment part of the Bill of Rights? (Yes or No)
4. Maria wants to write a letter to the newspaper about a problem in her town. Which amendment protects her right to express her opinion in writing?
5. Article I of the Constitution describes which branch of government: the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, or the Judicial Branch?
6. The Fourth Amendment protects people from unreasonable searches. If police want to search someone's home, what do they usually need to get first?
7. Article II gives the President the power to be Commander in Chief of the military. Which branch does Article II describe?
8. The Sixth Amendment says people accused of crimes have the right to a speedy and public trial. Why is it important that trials happen quickly instead of making people wait for years?
9. Article III creates the Supreme Court and other federal courts. What is the main job of the Judicial Branch that Article III establishes?

10. The Tenth Amendment says powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or the people. If the Constitution does not say the federal government can control how schools in a town are run, who has that power according to the Tenth Amendment?

Answer Key — Understanding the Constitution

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Yes (*The Preamble explains the purposes and goals of the Constitution.*)
2. the Articles (*The seven articles set up the structure of government, including the three branches.*)
3. Yes (*The Bill of Rights is the name for the first ten amendments, including the First Amendment.*)
4. First Amendment (*The First Amendment protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press.*)
5. the Legislative Branch (*Article I establishes Congress, which makes the laws.*)
6. a warrant (*The Fourth Amendment requires a warrant for most searches.*)
7. the Executive Branch (*Article II establishes the Executive Branch, led by the President.*)
8. So accused people are treated fairly and do not suffer from long waits in uncertainty (*A speedy trial protects the rights of the accused by preventing indefinite detention and ensuring justice happens promptly.*)
9. to interpret laws and decide court cases (*The Judicial Branch interprets the meaning of laws and applies them to specific cases.*)
10. the states or the people (*The Tenth Amendment reserves powers not delegated to the federal government for the states and the people.*)