

Constitution Terms

Name:

Period:

constitution

the act of forming or establishing something
- The United States Constitution is the supreme legal text that formed the framework of the current United States government.

preamble

introduction

amendment

a statement that is added to a proposal or document
- An Amendment is a proposal to alter the text of a pending bill or other measure by striking out some of it, by inserting new language, or both.

bill

proposed law

Bill of Rights

first 10 amendments to the constitution

legislative

relating to a lawmaking assembly

congress

the legislative branch of the United States government
- Legislative body of the United States of America is made up of the Senate and House of Representatives

Senate

the upper house of the United States Congress and each state has two senators

House of Representatives

the lower legislative assembly of the United States Congress
- The House of Representatives, often referred to as just "The House", is the lower chamber of Congress in which representatives of each state in the union

apportionment

distribution of seats in the house based on population.

justice

the quality of being just or fair
Justice is the attribute of fairness, especially in a court of law.

posterity

all future generations

tranquility

an untroubled state, free from disturbances

Union

the United States

general welfare

something that aids or promotes well-being of all

common defense

To formally charge a public official with misconduct in office.

Federalism

Political system in which power is divided between the national and state governments.

reserved powers

Power retained by the states, including the power to establish schools, set marriage and divorce laws, and regulate trade within the state.

concurrent powers

Powers both the states and the government shared together.

cabinet

A group of advisers to the president.

judicial power

Power of the Supreme Court to determine whether laws of congress are constitutional and to strike down those that are not.

due process

The government must follow procedures established by law and guaranteed by the Constitution, treating all people equally.

enumeration

Census or population count.

impeachment

Bringing charges against an official.

adjourn

To suspend a session.

concurrence

agreement

resolution

Legislature's formal expression of opinion.

naturalization

Procedure by which a citizen of a foreign nation becomes a citizen of the U.S.

original jurisdiction

Authority to be the first in court to hear a case.

appellate jurisdiction

Authority to hear cases that have been appealed from lower courts.

treason

Violation of the allegiance owed by a person to his/her own country, for example, by aiding an enemy.

ratification

Process by which an amendment is approved.

insurrection

Rebellion against the government.

suffrage

The right to vote.

president elect

Individual who is elected president but has not yet begun serving his/her term.

abolition

The immediate ending of slavery.