

CONTENTS



FEDERAL SECTION

Unit 1	The American Revolution	3
Unit 2	Declaration of Independence	4
Unit 3	The Articles of Confederation	5
Unit 4	The Constitutional Convention	6
Unit 5	The Bill of Rights	9

LEARNING AID:

Timeline of Constitutional Events	10
---	----

Unit 6	The Strengths of the Constitution	11
Unit 7	The Preamble and a Look Ahead	12
Unit 8	Summary of the U.S. Constitution	13

LEARNING AID:

Three Branches of Government Chart	15
--	----

Unit 9	Legislative Branch	16
Unit 10	Lawmaking Process	20

LEARNING AID:

Legislative Branch Fact Sheet	23
---	----

Unit 11	Other Duties of Congress	24
---------	------------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Division of Power	26
-----------------------------	----

Unit 12	Congress and the States	27
Unit 13	Executive Branch	28
Unit 14	The President's Cabinet	30
Unit 15	The Electoral College	32

LEARNING AID:

Executive Branch Fact Sheet	33
---------------------------------------	----

Unit 16	Presidents and Elections	34
---------	------------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Road to the 2024 Presidential Election	36
--	----

Unit 17	Judicial Branch	37
---------	---------------------------	----

Unit 18	Judicial Review	40
---------	---------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Judicial Branch Fact Sheet	38
--------------------------------------	----

Unit 19	Checks and Balances	42
---------	-------------------------------	----

Unit 20	Changing the Constitution and Other Information	44
---------	--	----

Unit 21	The American Flag	45
---------	-----------------------------	----

Unit 22	The Federal Budget and the Constitution	46
---------	--	----

Unit 23	The American Economy and the U.S. Constitution	47
---------	---	----

LEARNING AID:

U.S. Constitution Outline	48
-------------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Review Questions: Federal Unit	50
--	----

LEARNING AID:

Federal Unit Self-Test	52
----------------------------------	----

ILLINOIS SECTION

Unit 24	Illinois Constitution and Government	55
Unit 25	Illinois and the Northwest Ordinance	57
Unit 26	Celebrate Our Great Illinois History	58

LEARNING AID:

Illinois Statistics and Geography	59
---	----

Unit 27	Overview of the Illinois Constitution	60
---------	--	----

LEARNING AID:

State Government Fact Sheet	64
---------------------------------------	----

Unit 28	State Legislative Branch	65
Unit 29	State Lawmaking Process	67

LEARNING AID:

How a Bill Becomes Law in Illinois	68
--	----

Unit 30	State Executive Branch	69
Unit 31	State Judicial Branch	71
Unit 32	Voting and Elections	73
Unit 33	Municipal Government	75

Unit 34	Local Government	76
---------	----------------------------	----

Unit 35	Financing State and Local Government	77
---------	---	----

Unit 36	City of Chicago	78
---------	---------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Illinois Unit Outline	79
---------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Review Questions: Illinois Unit	81
---	----

LEARNING AID:

Constitution Comparison	83
-----------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Illinois Constitution Self-Test	84
---	----

REFERENCE:

Constitution Vocabulary	86
-----------------------------------	----

LEARNING AID:

Name Your Government Officials	back cover
--	------------

Ratification

It was decided that as soon as nine states approved the Constitution, it would go into effect. The convention adjourned September 17, 1787, and the fight for ratification began. The battle was a bitter one. The Federalists supported the Constitution. Leading Federalists Hamilton, Jay, and Madison published the *Federalist Papers*. These papers were essential in convincing people that the Constitution was of value. The *Anti-Federalists* fought against the Constitution but were not successful.

On June 21, 1788, the Constitution took effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. The remaining four states joined by 1790. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists continued their battle over the Constitution and became two separate political forces under the new government.

On January 7, 1789, the United States, having recently adopted its Constitution, held its first presidential election. Only white men who owned property voted. They choose electors who, in turn, voted for the candidates. As it did in 1789, the United States still uses the Electoral College system established by the U.S. Constitution.

Our First President

As expected, George Washington won the election and was sworn into office on April 30, 1789, as the first president of the United States and the “Father of Our Country.” Washington was a Virginia landowner who had led the patriotic forces in the war against the British. His accomplishments matched his popularity. Washington was a delegate to both Continental Congresses. He was unanimously named both as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and as president of the Constitutional Convention that drafted the Constitution.



George Washington

Washington finished first with 69 votes, followed by his fellow Federalist John Adams of Massachusetts, whose 34 votes propelled him into the vice presidency. (Before the ratification of the 12th Amendment in 1804, the candidate who received the most electoral votes became president while the runner-up became vice president.)

Citizenship and Becoming President

The members of the Constitutional Convention envisioned a president born in the good, old United States of America. In Article 2, Section 1, they wrote that “No person except a natural-born citizen... shall be eligible to the office of president.” The convention delegates did not want to take the chance of a foreign country sending someone to run for our highest political office. Immigrants can become citizens, thus becoming *naturalized* citizens. But naturalized citizens cannot become president; only natural-born citizens are eligible.

QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ___ 1. Six states had to approve the Constitution before it was effective.
- ___ 2. The Federalists were against the Constitution.
- ___ 3. The authors of the Constitution wrote a document that was easily adapted to change.
- ___ 4. The small states wanted each state to have the same number of representatives.
- ___ 5. The Constitutional Convention adopted the Virginia Plan.
- ___ 6. Fortunately, the Constitution outlawed slavery.
- ___ 7. The Electoral College showed that the Constitutional Convention trusted the people.
- ___ 8. The New Jersey Plan suggested only one house of Congress.
- ___ 9. The New Jersey Plan favored the small states and the Virginia Plan favored the large states.
- ___ 10. Each state gets the same number of votes in the Electoral College.
- ___ 11. Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution includes a provision that only “natural-born” citizens are eligible to become president.
- ___ 12. Immigrants can become citizens.

MATCH THE PERSON TO THE STATEMENT. Write the letter of the statement that matches the person.



Benjamin Franklin ___

Patrick Henry ___



James Madison ___



John Adams ___



Robert Morris ___

Alexander Hamilton ___



- a. First Vice President b. Submitted Virginia Plan
c. NY Delegate & Federalist d. Financier of the Revolution
e. “Smelt a Rat” f. Oldest Delegate at Convention

SHORT ANSWER / FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Write a definition of democracy. _____

2. Number of the amendment that changed the way we elect U.S. senators. _____
3. Name three of the original 13 colonies. _____

4. The Constitutional Convention adjourned on what date? _____
5. How many states had to ratify the Constitution before it went into effect? _____

Listed below is a sampling of the events that led to America's independence and the adoption of a new constitution. You will find the years and the significant events that happened during that time.

1763 - 1765
Protests Against
British Rule



England decides on a program of taxation and control of the colonies. The American colonists begin organized protests against British rule. Patriotic groups such as the *Sons of Liberty* are formed. Laws such as the *Quartering Act*, *Stamp Act*, and *Sugar Act* anger the colonists, who are forced to pay unjust taxes and provide supplies to British troops.

1770 - 1773
Uprisings in
Boston



Colonists reduce their boycott of British goods when they withdraw all of the *Townshend Act*, except the tax on tea. *Boston Massacre* (March 5, 1770) occurs when an angry crowd of citizens surrounds a group of soldiers, causing them to open fire. With the American colonists and merchants still angry over British tax policies, an uprising called the *Boston Tea Party* occurs (December 16, 1773).

1774
First Continental
Congress



In response to the Boston Tea Party, the Parliament passes several acts to punish Massachusetts. Twelve of the 13 colonies name delegates to *The First Continental Congress*. On September 5th, they convene at *Carpenters Hall* in Philadelphia to deal with Britain's actions.

1775
The American
Revolution



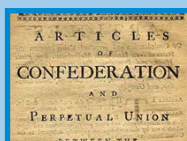
When the Americans learn the British plan to seize their guns and ammunition, *Paul Revere* is sent to alert the countryside and gather the *Minutemen*. An unidentified shot triggers the Battle at Lexington. This starts the *American Revolution* and also leads to another famous battle, *Bunker Hill*. In May, the *Second Continental Congress* meets in Philadelphia.

1776
The Declaration
of Independence



On July 4th, The Second Continental Congress adopts the *Declaration of Independence* (written by *Thomas Jefferson* and committee). The Declaration was debated by 56 courageous men and signed at *Independence Hall*. A few days later, church bells are rung across Philadelphia to call people to the first public reading of the Declaration.

1777 - 1781
The Articles of
Confederation



After considerable debate and alteration, the *Articles of Confederation* were adopted by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. However, the document was not fully ratified by the states until March 1, 1781. This document served as the United States' first constitution. In October of 1781, British forces surrender at Yorktown.

1787 - 1788
The Constitution
is Ratified



On May 14th, 1787, *The Constitutional Convention* met in Philadelphia. Here the delegates reviewed and approved the *Constitution*. In 1788, nine states ratified the Constitution, and it is put into effect (the remaining four states will ratify by 1790). America prepares to operate under this new document.

1789
Our New
Government



On March 4th, the new federal government is inaugurated in New York. In April, the first House of Representatives is organized. *George Washington* is elected the first president on April 6th. He is inaugurated on April 30th. On September 25th, the first 10 amendments (*Bill of Rights*) are adopted by Congress.

QUESTIONS

PUT THE EVENTS IN ORDER. For each question group, write the numbers **1, 2, or 3**, to indicate which event happened first, second, and third.

Group 1. Boston Massacre _____, Adopted Declaration of Independence _____, Washington becomes president _____

Group 2. Articles of Confederation _____, Boston Tea Party _____, Constitution ratified by nine states _____

Group 3. England sets taxation policy for colonies _____, Constitutional Convention _____, Battle of Bunker Hill _____

Group 4. Paul Revere alerts colonists _____, Stamp Act is law _____, First House of Representatives organized _____

Group 5. Bill of Rights adopted _____, First Continental Congress _____, Declaration is read to the public _____

Group 6. Second Continental Congress meets _____, Sons of Liberty forms _____, American Revolution ends _____

THE CONSTITUTION SETS UP THREE BRANCHES

Article One Legislative Branch *make the laws*



Senate

100 members,
2 from each state

House

435 members,
based upon state
population

Agencies that provide support services:
Government Printing Office, The Library
of Congress, The General
Accounting Office, etc.

Article Two Executive Branch *enforce the laws*



The President

Vice President

Agencies that provide
services: Nat'l
Security Council,
Executive Office
of the President,
etc.

Article Three Judicial Branch *interpret the laws*



The Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals

District courts and all other courts

The Cabinet (15 departments)

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Education

Department of Energy

Department of Homeland
Security

Department of Health and
Human Services

Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Department of Interior

Department of Justice

Department of Labor

Department of State

Department of
Transportation

Department of Treasury

Department of Veterans
Affairs

QUESTIONS

FILL IN THE BLANKS / SHORT ANSWER

1. In Congress, where are bills sent for consideration?

2. What is the president's role in lawmaking?

3. What is a pocket veto? _____
4. Which group of Congress has more members, the Senate or House? _____
5. After a bill has passed the two houses of _____, it is sent to the _____.

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- _____ 1. The Congress vetoes laws.
- _____ 2. The Supreme Court helps in making laws.
- _____ 3. Bills may start in either house of Congress.
- _____ 4. Revenue bills start in the Senate.
- _____ 5. A three-fourth vote is necessary for Congress to override a president's veto.
- _____ 6. The president can declare laws unconstitutional.
- _____ 7. Lobbies are illegal in Washington, D.C.

- _____ 8. After a law is passed, if it is in conflict with the Constitution, it can be made void by the Supreme Court.

WHICH BRANCH? Answer **Executive (E)**, **Legislative (L)**, or **Judicial (J)** branch.

- _____ 1. Makes the country's laws.
- _____ 2. Enforces the country's laws.
- _____ 3. Tries cases under the laws.
- _____ 4. Is the court system of the country.
- _____ 5. Has two houses.
- _____ 6. The president is the head of this branch.
- _____ 7. The Supreme Court is the chief body.
- _____ 8. Members are not elected.
- _____ 9. Uses pocket veto.
- _____ 10. Uses joint committees.


LAWMAKING BY THE NUMBERS. Choose the correct number from the number bank that matches the statement.

Number Bank: 1/2, 2/3, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 50, 100, 435

- _____ Lawmaking in this Article of the Constitution.
- _____ President has this many days to take action.
- _____ Number of U.S. senators in Congress.
- _____ Number of U.S. representatives in Congress.
- _____ A U.S. representative's term in years.
- _____ Fraction of votes Congress needs to override a veto.

LEARNING AID

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FACT SHEET

Main Body	Congress, consisting of a <i>Senate and House of Representatives</i>	
Membership	<i>Senate</i> : 100 <i>House of Representatives</i> : 435	
Terms of Office	<i>Senate</i> : 6 years <i>House of Representatives</i> : 2 years	
Salaries	<i>Senate</i> : \$174,000 majority and minority Leaders, president pro tempore: \$193,400 <i>House of Representatives</i> : \$174,000 speaker of the House: \$223,500	
Requirements	<i>Senate</i> : 30 years old, a citizen for 9 years, resident of the state represented. <i>House of Representatives</i> : 25 years old, a citizen for 7 years, resident of the state represented.	
Officers	<i>Senate</i> : President of the Senate (Vice President of the United States), president pro tempore, majority leader, minority leader. <i>House of Representatives</i> : speaker of the House, majority leader, minority leader.	
Meeting Place	Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.	
Duties	Main duty of the legislative branch is to make laws. <i>Senate</i> : Pass bills, decide guilt of impeached federal officers, approve presidential appointments, approve treaties. <i>House of Representatives</i> : Pass bills, charge federal officers in impeachment cases, select president when no candidate has a majority in the Electoral College, start all revenue bills. <i>Joint Duties</i> : Raise, borrow, and coin money; have defense powers; control immigration; grant copyrights and patents; control commerce; govern Washington, D.C.; investigate executive branch. <i>Forbidden Powers</i> : No ex post facto laws, no suspension of habeas corpus, no tax on exports, no title of nobility, no bill of attainder, no mid-term pay raises.	
Article Number	Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution	

Perhaps the most prolonged debate at the Constitutional Convention concerned the method of selecting the president. An early suggestion was to give this power to Congress. But that would have destroyed the idea of the separation of powers. How could we have three branches of government, each checking the other if the legislative branch (the Congress) picked the head of the executive branch (the president)?

The writers of the Constitution also weren't ready to give the selection of the president to the people or the "common man." So they wrote a compromise into Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution. The compromise set up a system of electors to select the president. These electors came to be known as the *Electoral College*, but the Constitution itself does not mention the term "Electoral College."

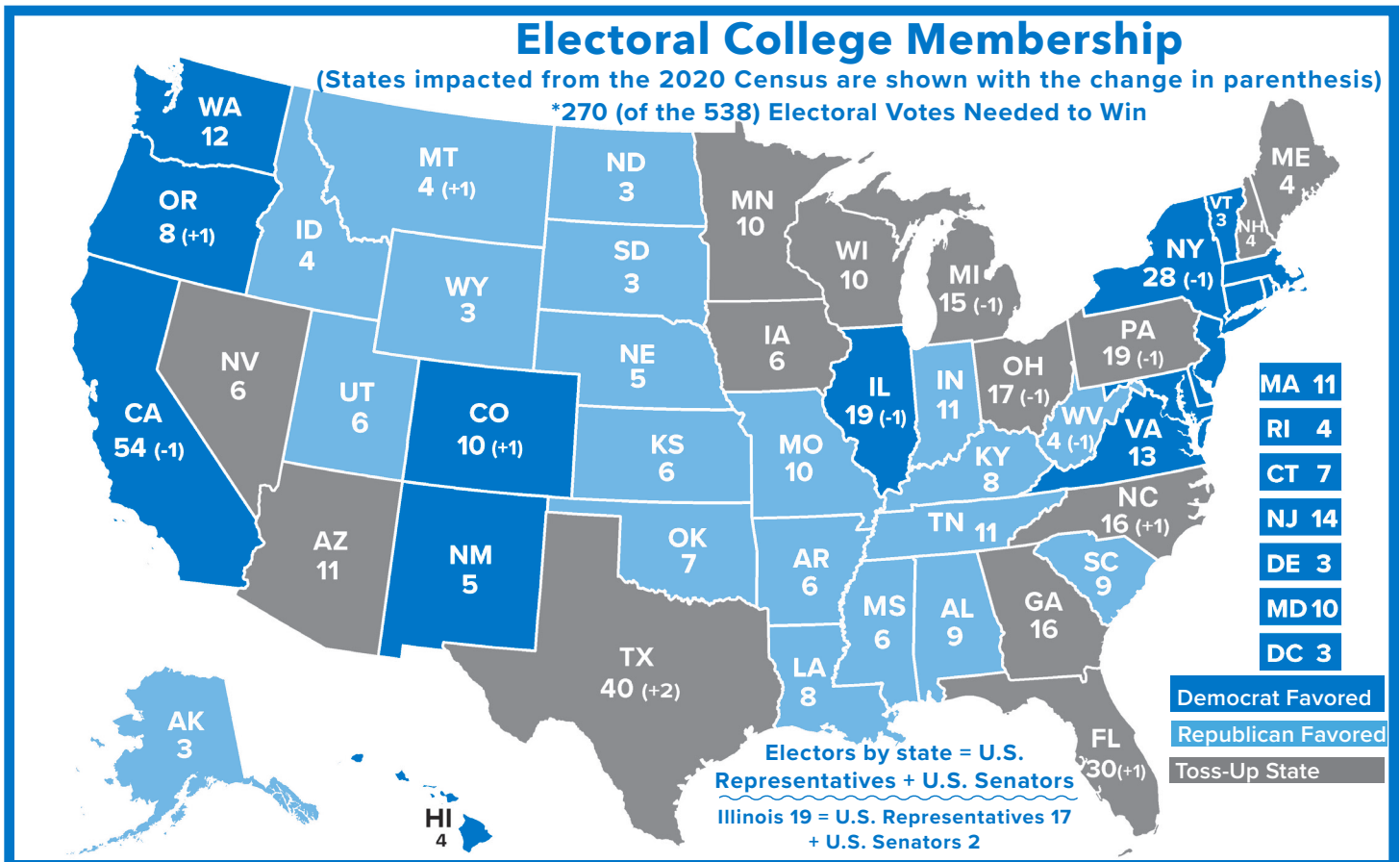
This unique election method was modified by the 12th and 23rd Amendments. Before 1961, the voters in Washington, D.C., didn't get to vote for the president at all. This was not considered fair in the capital of our country. The 23rd Amendment was added in 1961, giving three electoral votes for Washington, D.C. That made a total of 538 electors (electoral votes for each state equals the number of representatives plus two for the senators). A majority of 270 or more would be necessary to select the president. The map below shows the distribution of the electoral votes based on the 2020 reapportionment from the 2020 Census.

To summarize, if a candidate gets the most popular (people) votes in the state, the "electors" will then cast their votes the same way. All the electoral votes for the state (except for Maine and Nebraska) will go to the winner of the state. The writers of the Constitution also thought that the Electoral College gave states with a small population more equal weight in the presidential election.

One of the problems political scientists see in the Electoral College is that it allows a person to be elected president who has not won the popular vote in the country. In our growing beliefs in the power and rights of democracy in our nation, that could be a problem. Because all the electoral votes of a state go to the candidate who wins the election in that state, whether the candidate wins by a single vote or a million votes, it is possible to be elected president without having the most votes.

That has not happened very often, but it did occur in 2000 when George W. Bush became president and again recently in the 2016 election. Donald Trump became president even though Hillary Clinton won a majority of the popular votes. And, because this has happened so recently, Americans are debating the Electoral College's pros and cons. Since a change in the electoral vote would require a constitutional amendment, the change will not come quickly. Supporters of the current system say that it has served the nation well and forces candidates to gain broad geographic support rather than concentrating only on large metropolitan areas.

continued



"Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound their true meaning and operation." – Alexander Hamilton

Judicial review is the name given to the process by which the courts interpret the meaning of the Constitution and the laws passed under it. It is clear that the Constitution is the supreme law of our land and takes precedence over any law passed or any action taken by any state or federal official.

However, the Constitution is not a complete legal code, and it is not always easy to see how the Constitution can be applied to particular cases. As conditions change, new interpretations may be placed on the Constitution; actions may be taken in areas not directly covered by the Constitution. For example, the Fourth Amendment, ratified in 1791, obviously does not address whether the government may perform a search of the digital contents of a cellphone seized in an arrest without obtaining a warrant. Thus, interpretation is necessary to determine the meaning of the Constitution's ambiguous provisions or answer fundamental questions left unaddressed by the drafters.

Someone, then, must have the authority to precisely decide what the Constitution means and decide if the government is acting within constitutional limits. Most historians agree that the Constitutional Convention members wanted the courts to have the power of judicial review, even though they did not write it out in detail. They thought that the idea had been conveyed adequately through the wording of Article 3, the judicial article, and Article 6, the "supreme law of the land" clause.

There was some discussion of this question after the Constitutional Convention. Still, nothing was settled until 1803, when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*. The court ruled that one section of a 1789 law was contrary to the Constitution and, therefore, was invalid. Chief Justice John Marshall gave the following opinion in the case:

"It is emphatically the province and duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is...If two laws conflict with each other, the Courts must decide on the operation of each. So, if a law be in opposition to the Constitution... the Court must determine which of these conflicting rules governs the case. This is of the very essence of judicial duty."

Chief Justice John Marshall (1755 -1835)

John Marshall was the fourth Chief Justice of the United States. He is often called "The Great Chief Justice," not only for the 34 years he served as Chief Justice—the longest service of any Chief Justice to date—but also for his role in helping to make the Supreme Court a co-equal branch of the federal government. While the words "judicial review" are not written anywhere in the U.S. Constitution, many Founding Fathers believed this power would reside with the Supreme Court. Today, it is considered one of the "checks and balances" that ensures each branch of government can limit the powers of others.



The ruling from *Marbury v. Madison* established the precedent for judicial review, an essential addition to the system of checks and balances to prevent any one branch of the government from becoming too powerful. Judicial review in the United States has been a model for other countries.

Methods of Constitutional Interpretation

Judicial review at the Supreme Court involves unelected judges, contrary to the democratically elected branches of the federal government or popularly elected state officials. In response to the Justices' own political preferences, several methods of constitutional interpretation have guided the Justices in their decision-making and were the motivating principles behind the Court's decisions.

The Supreme Court uses its reasoning skills to decide what particular laws mean when they rule on cases. Different judges use different rationales to interpret the Constitution, highlighting the differing views on the meaning of the Constitution. Below are some widely accepted methods of interpretation.

Methods of Interpretation	
Method:	Description:
Actual Text	Study the meaning of the words in the Constitution and what they meant at the time.
Precedent or Prior Decisions	Review the principles, rules, and decisions applied to cases with similar facts, i.e., taking rulings in old cases and applying them to new cases.
Moral or Ethical Reasoning	Decipher moral concepts or ideals, such as "due process of law" noted in the Constitution, and may be coupled with a justice's present-day moral judgments.
Structure of the Constitution	Draw inferences from the Constitution to concepts everyone agrees it establishes — such as separation of powers, federalism, and the relationship between the government and the people.
Historical Practices	Review historical cases to determine the Constitution's meaning when the text provides no clear answer.

The Supreme Court's right to interpret the Constitution has been challenged at times but has always been upheld. In a sense, all of our courts contribute to the Constitution's interpretation through the rulings they hand down on various cases involving the Constitution. The Supreme Court has used its power of judicial review to overturn more than a hundred acts of Congress and more than a thousand state laws. Also, the Supreme Court can and often does overturn the rulings of lower courts. It is the final authority on the meaning of the Constitution.

continued

The following test will help you prepare for your final Constitution test. It has questions similar to ones you will find on your final. It is suggested you write your answers on a piece of paper so you can take the test multiple times. You will find the correct answers at the bottom of Page 54.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

1. _____ The president may serve how many terms? a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
2. _____ What is NOT a rule of the flag code?
a. worn flags should be thrown in trash c. should be displayed on national holidays
b. should be in the front of a parade d. exact likeness should not be used in ads
3. _____ How many amendments have been added to the Constitution? a. 10 b. 21 c. 27 d. 41
4. _____ How many years is the president's term of office? a. 2 b. 4 c. 6 d. 9
5. _____ What is the age requirement to become president? a. 18 b. 21 c. 35 d. 45
6. _____ After a bill has gone through both houses of Congress successfully, it is sent to:
a. the President c. the Speaker of the House
b. the States d. the Supreme Court
7. _____ Which amendment gave women who are citizens the right to vote in all elections?
a. 17th b. 19th c. 22nd d. 27th
8. _____ How many U.S. senators come from each state? a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
9. _____ Each state receives at least _____ representative(s) in the U.S. House of Representatives.
a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
10. _____ Who may veto a bill proposed by Congress?
a. the President of the United States c. the Vice President
b. the Secretary of State d. all Cabinet members
11. _____ The president of the Senate is:
a. the President of the United States c. the Secretary of State
b. the Speaker of the House d. the Vice President
12. _____ Which of these rights is NOT an unalienable right from the Declaration of Independence?
a. liberty b. education c. pursuit of happiness d. life
13. _____ The Declaration of Independence was written largely by:
a. Hamilton b. Washington c. Jefferson d. Adams
14. _____ The national budget is presented annually to Congress by the:
a. the Vice President c. the Secretary of State
b. the Governors d. the President
15. _____ There are how many branches of government? a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
16. _____ The president takes the oath of office on:
a. January 4th b. January 20th c. November 7th d. September 5th
17. _____ In our First Amendment, which is NOT a "freedom"?
a. freedom of the press c. freedom of speech
b. freedom of employment d. freedom of religion
18. _____ The vote of what group really decides who will be president?
a. Electoral College c. United Nations
b. popular vote by the people d. House of Representatives
19. _____ What is described in Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution giving Congress broad powers to write laws about new situations?
a. war power b. insight clause c. elastic clause d. inventional clause
20. _____ Which body has the power to borrow money?
a. Congress c. Executive Branch
b. Supreme Court d. State Legislatures

continued

Separation of Powers in Illinois

The system of checks and balances reinforces the separation of powers concept. Not only is power divided, but one branch checks the other branches. For example, the courts have the power to declare laws and executive actions unconstitutional. The governor can veto bills from the legislature. The legislature must approve the government's budget and many of the governor's appointments. These are all examples of the constitution's attempts and ultimately of the people to avoid concentrating too much power in one place. The people always retain the right to control government by amending the constitution and rewriting state constitutions.

QUESTIONS

WHICH ARTICLE? In which article of the state constitution would you find information on the following? (Give section number when possible.)

1. Pollution Control _____
2. Rights of Individuals _____
3. The Governor _____
4. Jury Trial _____
5. Religious Freedom _____
6. Access for People with Disabilities _____
7. The Judicial System _____
8. Revising the Constitution _____
9. Voting Qualifications _____
10. Local Government Rules _____
11. Public High Schools _____
12. Property Taxes _____

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

1. Voters must approve changes in the state constitution. _____
2. The General Assembly can call for a convention only with the voters' approval. _____
3. Six amendments at a time may be presented to the voters. _____

4. An amendment to the state constitution may be proposed in either house of the Legislature. _____
5. The Illinois Constitution helps establish federal laws and treaties. _____
6. State constitutions are always shorter in length and contain fewer details than the U.S. Constitution. _____
7. Freedom of speech is not listed in the Illinois Constitution, only in the U.S. Constitution. _____
8. There are more amendments in the U.S. Constitution than in the Illinois Constitution of 1970. _____
9. The 26th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution set the stage for the 5th Amendment of the Illinois Constitution. _____

MATCH THE AMENDMENT. Write the letter of the corresponding amendment from **Section B** in the space that matches the subject matter in **Section A**.

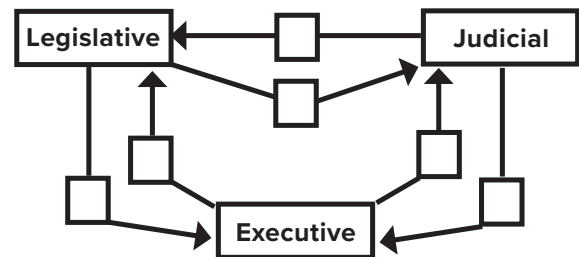
A

1. Reduced the voting age to 18. _____
2. The "recall" amendment. _____
3. Expanded rights to crime victims. _____
4. Reduced the size of the IL House to 118. _____
5. Protects the voting rights of eligible citizens. _____

B

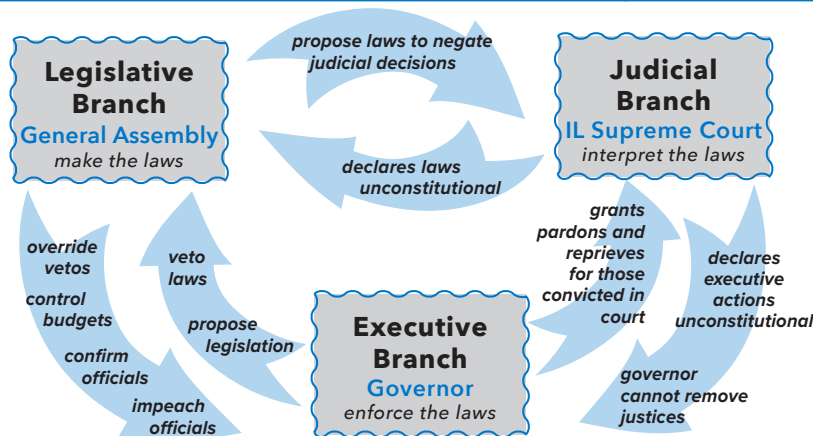
- a. 1st b. 5th c. 11th d. 12th e. 13th

FILL IN THE BOXES (CHECKS & BALANCES)



- a. governor can grant pardons to those convicted
- b. proposes laws to avoid judicial decision rulings
- c. may pass laws by overriding a governor's veto
- d. may declare laws from the General Assembly unconstitutional
- e. may veto laws passed by the General Assembly
- f. may declare executive orders unconstitutional

System of Checks and Balances in the State of Illinois



All state governments are modeled after the federal government and have three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The principle guiding federal and state constitutions is the **separation of powers**. The distribution of power with a system of **checks and balances** does not allow any single branch of government to have too much power. Some of the most critical "checks" by the branch are listed in the shaded arrows.

"The judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court, and Appellate Court, and Circuit Courts."
— Illinois Constitution, Article 6

The judicial branch of government in Illinois administers justice and interprets the laws. It is composed of a system of courts. The Illinois Constitution defines the courts' responsibilities, the qualifications of judges, and the duties of the three-level court system. The *three-level court system* involves the (1) circuit courts, (2) appellate courts, and (3) the Supreme Court.

Criminal and Civil Cases

All courts handle both *criminal* and *civil* cases. A criminal case involves a violation of a law for which there is a fine or other penalty like a prison sentence or probation. Criminal cases range from relatively minor offenses, such as traffic infractions, to serious ones, such as robbery or murder. These typical crimes are classified as *felonies*, *misdemeanors*, or *infractions*.

Felonies – Serious crimes that often are punishable by a state prison sentence or even death in the most extreme cases.

Misdemeanors – A lesser offense than a felony. It is punishable by fine or incarceration for less than a year in a city or county jail rather than in a state penitentiary.

Infractions – These are not punishable by jail or prison time but rather by a fine. The most common infractions are traffic violations.

Civil cases are brought against individuals or organizations by other individuals or organizations. In some civil cases, the plaintiff seeks money damages to be paid by the defendant. In other kinds of civil cases, the parties ask the court to take a certain action, such as to dissolve a marriage, decide the custody of minor children, review property rights, or stop someone from doing something.

Now that you are familiar with the type of court cases, it is time to learn more about the courts themselves.

Circuit Court

Circuit courts are the *general trial courts*. They hear all types of cases, from traffic violations to murder arrests. In these courts, cases are heard, and judgments are made. The Illinois Constitution says that this court has jurisdiction, "...of all justiciable matters..." The judicial process of the state begins here. Most of the work on the state court system takes place in these 23 courts (in 23 *judicial circuits*) spread across the state.

Circuit courts are staffed by *circuit* and *associate* judges. The voters elect circuit court judges to six-year terms. Each judicial district has one *chief judge* selected by the circuit court judges. Associate judges are appointed by the circuit judges to a four-year term and may not rule on more severe cases. The number of judges is provided by law.

Appellate Court

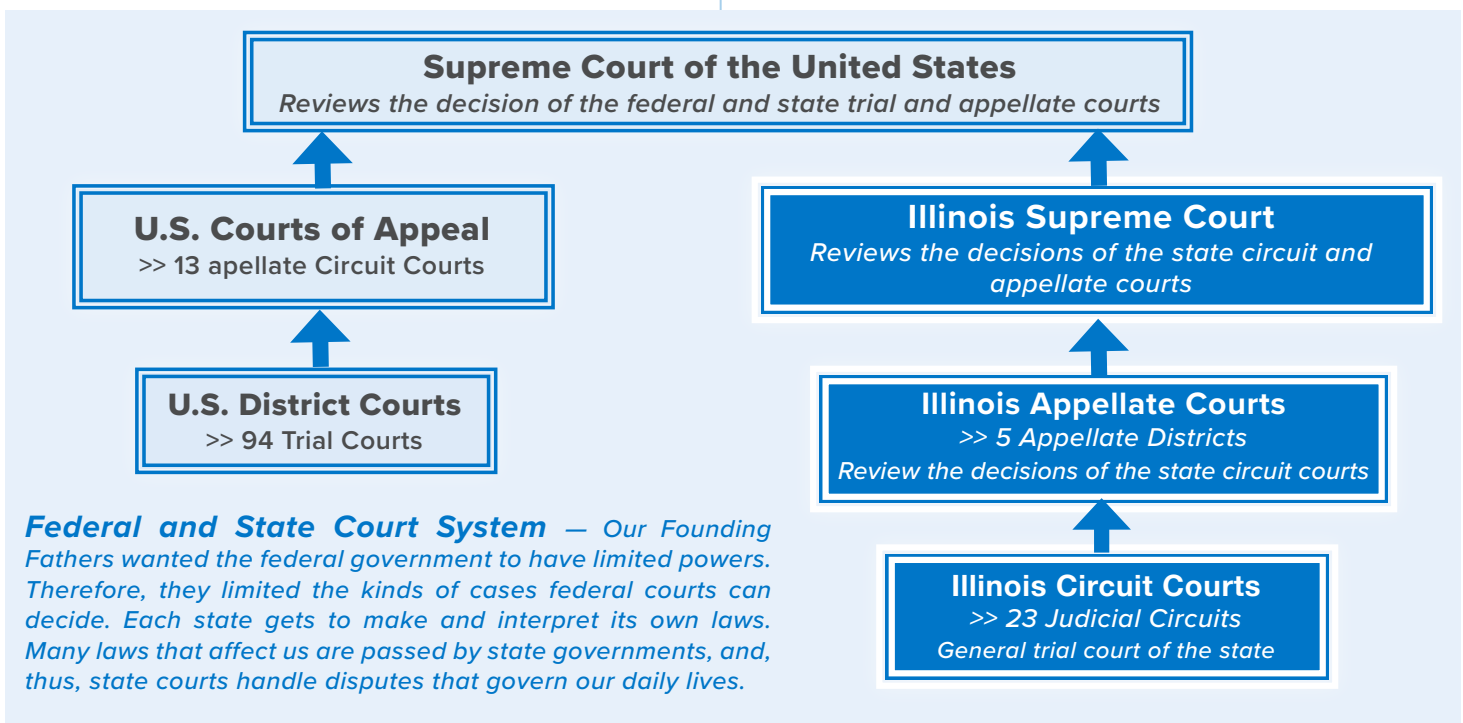
The appellate court hears appeals from the circuit courts. Most cases appealed from the circuit courts are decided here, with few going to the Illinois Supreme Court.

The appellate court is organized into five *judicial districts*. The first meets in Chicago, the second in Elgin, the third in Ottawa, the fourth in Springfield, and the fifth in Mount Vernon. The judges serve 10-year terms, and the number of judges is provided by law. A panel of three judges hears the appeal, and at least two must agree before a decision is made.

Illinois Supreme Court

The highest court in the state is the Illinois Supreme Court. It has the highest authority on the interpretation of state and local laws. Also, it has the power to declare laws from the Illinois General Assembly unconstitutional. The Illinois

continued



This sheet to be filled out when you complete the Illinois unit. The numbers in parentheses gives the page number where the answer or additional information may be found.

1. What year did Illinois become a state? (55-57) _____
2. This ordinance helped Illinois become a state and provided for U.S. expansion. (57) _____
3. Name all the past and present Illinois state capitals. (55) _____

4. How many constitutions has Illinois had? (55-56) _____ What years, and which constitution, do we currently operate under? (56,60) _____
5. With what movement was Samuel Witwer connected? (56) _____
6. What were the purposes of the 1970 Illinois Constitution? (56) _____

7. Name two presidents with Illinois roots. (58) _____
8. What is the main purpose of the legislative branch? (65) _____
9. What is the main body in the state legislative branch? (65) _____
10. Which two chambers does it contain? (65) _____
11. What are the qualifications for becoming a member of the Legislature? (65) _____

12. How many members in the Illinois Senate? (65) _____
13. How many members in the Illinois House of Representatives? (66) _____
14. What is the term (in years) of an Illinois senator? (65) _____
15. What is the term (in years) of an Illinois representative? (66) _____
16. What is the salary of an Illinois senator? (65) _____ A representative? (65) _____
17. What is a quorum in the General Assembly? (65) _____
18. Name one special duty of the state Senate. (65) _____
19. Name one special duty of the state House. (66) _____
20. Who are the officers of the Illinois Senate? (65-66) _____
21. Who are the officers of the Illinois House? (66) _____
22. Explain the lawmaking process in Illinois. (67-68) _____

23. How soon must a bill, passed in both houses, be sent to the governor? (67-68) _____
24. What can the General Assembly do after a veto by the governor? (67-68) _____
25. What are lobbies? (67) _____
26. What are some of the restrictions on the General Assembly? (67) _____

27. What is the main purpose of the executive branch? (69) _____