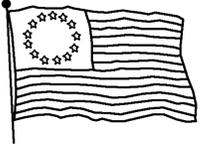


THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787. The seven articles of the Constitution set down the laws of how the government was to be formed. The first three articles deal with the three separate, but equal branches of the government. The framers (men who wrote the Constitution) didn't want any branch to become too powerful. They created a system of "checks and balances" to give each branch the power to block a decision made by another branch.



PREAMBLE

This is the **opening paragraph** of the **constitution**.

ARTICLE 1 - Legislative Branch

The congress (state representatives and senators) meets in the Capitol Building.

Congress makes the laws.

ARTICLE 2 - Executive Branch

The President lives and works in the White House.

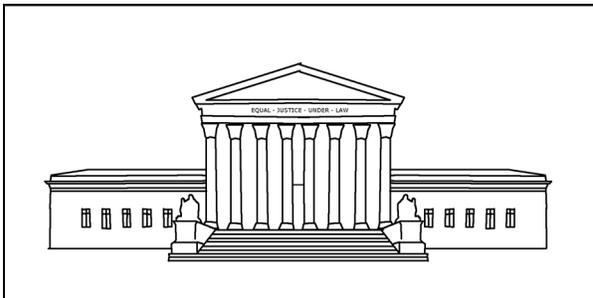
The **President** upholds the law, and can veto laws.

ARTICLE 3 - Judicial Branch

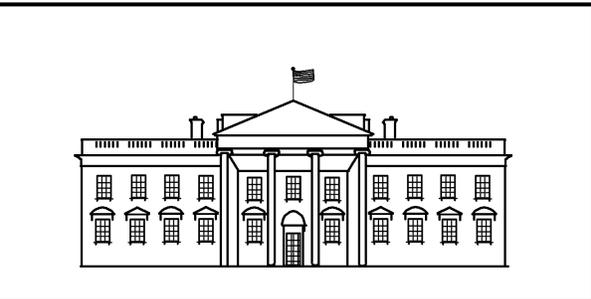
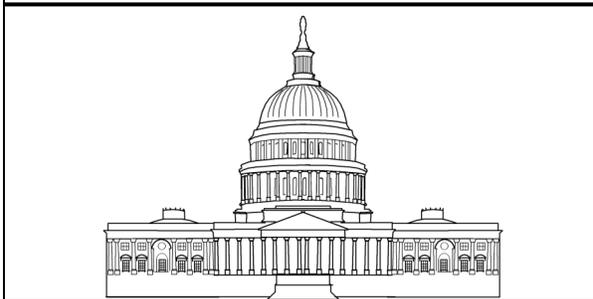
The nine U.S. justices meet in the Supreme Court Building.

The **Supreme Court** decides if laws are constitutional.

Cut out the four rectangles below. Glue each one to the correct dotted rectangle above.

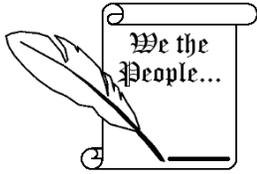


We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLES 4-7



The final four articles of the Constitution deal with states rights, obeying the Constitution, and making changes to the Constitution. By 1791, all thirteen states had ratified the Constitution.

ARTICLE 4 - States Rights

In 1787, there were 13 states (colonies),
now there are 50.

All states are equal and should respect each other's laws.

ARTICLE 5 - Amendments

The Bill of Rights is a document of changes
to the Constitution. As of now, there are
27 amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Future generations can make **changes to the Constitution**.

ARTICLE 6 - Federal Power

All U.S. governments must take an
oath to obey the Constitution.

The **Constitution** is the **law of the land**.

ARTICLE 7 - Ratification

To ratify means to make official by voting.

3/4 of the states have to **vote yes** to change the Constitution.

Cut out the four rectangles below. Glue each one to the correct dotted rectangle above.

