

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Meaning of the Constitution



It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood. - James Madison

1. _____ Establishes the Judiciary branch, the Supreme Court, as the highest court in the United States. Supreme Court and lower court judges may serve as long as they are on "good behavior," which usually means for life. Requires that judges be paid.
2. _____ Establishes Executive branch of government. President and the Vice-President term is four years. Presidents are elected by the Electoral College. Eligibility for President include aged 35 or older and a natural-born citizen of the United States. The President is to be paid a salary, which remains the same while he is office.
3. _____ Congressional limits: legal items, such as suspension of habeas corpus, bills of attainder, and ex post facto laws are prohibited. No law can give preference to one state over another; no money can be taken from the treasury except by duly passed law, and no title of nobility will ever be established.
4. _____ States control how Congress members are elected. Requires Congress to meet at least once per year.
5. _____ Presidential powers: Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and of the militia (National Guard) of all the states. He selects members of a Cabinet to help him, and can pardon criminals. The President can make treaties with other nations, and picks judges and other members of the government (picks require Senate approval.)
6. _____ States that citizens of one state be treated equally and fairly like all citizens of another. Requires a person accused of a crime fleeing from one state to another be returned to the original state.
7. _____ Guaranteed that the United States would honor its debts created during the Articles of Confederation. States the Constitution is the Surpeme law over all the states. Requires elected officials to swear an oath of allegiance to the United States and the Constitution when taking office.

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8. _____ Members of Congress will be paid, that they cannot be detained while traveling to and from Congress, that they cannot hold any other office in the government while in the Congress.
 9. _____ Mandates that all states will honor the laws of all other states.
 10. _____ Congress must have a minimum number of members present in order to meet. Members who do not show up may be fined. Members may be expelled. Each house must keep a journal to record proceedings and votes. Neither house can adjourn without the permission of the other.
 11. _____ Establishes the name of the bicameral Legislature as The Congress.
 12. _____ Defines the Senate, known as the upper house of Congress. Senators must be at least 30 years old and hold office for a 6 year term. Each state has two Senators. The Vice-President is the leader of the Senate and only votes if there is a tie.
 13. _____ 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.
 14. _____ Defines the House of Representatives, known as the lower house of Congress. Members must be 25 years old, and are elected for 2 year terms. The number of representatives is based on each states population. The leader of the House is chosen by the members and is called the Speaker of the House.
 15. _____ The ratification details and attesting signature of the Constitutional secretary. Nine states were required to accept the Constitution before it would officially go into effect.
 16. _____ Bars the states from making their own money, or declaring war, or other things prohibited Congress in Section 9.
 17. _____ Defines what the crime of treason is.
 18. _____ Details how bills become law.
 19. _____ Rules on how to change (Amend) the Constitution
 20. _____ Clarifies which cases can be seen by the Supreme Court first and which types of cases are seen only on appeal. It also guarantees a person the right to a trial by jury in criminal court.

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21. _____ The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, can be removed (Impeachment) for conviction of treason, bribery or other high crimes or misdemeanors.
22. _____ Establishes the duties of the President: to give a state of the union address, to make suggestions to Congress, to act as head of state by receiving ambassadors and other heads of state, and to be sure the laws of the United States are carried out.
23. _____ Rules regarding the admittance of new states and the control of federal lands and US territories..
24. _____ Congressional powers: establish and maintain an army and navy, to establish post offices, to create courts, to regulate commerce between the states, to declare war, and to raise money.
25. _____ Guarantees an elected "Republican" government. Guarantees that the federal government will protect the states against invasion and insurrection.

PREAMBLE	ARTICLE 1, SECTION 7	ARTICLE 2, SECTION 3	ARTICLE 4, SECTION 2
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1	ARTICLE 1, SECTION 8	ARTILCE 2, SECTION 4	ARTICLE 4, SECTION 3
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 2	ARTICLE 1, SECTION 9	ARTICLE 3, SECTION 1	ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 3	ARTICLE 1, SECTION 10	ARTICLE 3, SECTION 2	ARTICLE 5
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ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5	ARTICLE 2, SECTION 2	ARTICLE 4, SECTION 1	ARTICLE 7
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 6			