

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Student Book

▶ **2nd Grade** | Unit 4

GOVERNMENT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 204

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LIFEPAC Test |**Pull-out**

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GOVERNMENT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION



In 1787, America's Founding Fathers met to create a government for the new country. They wrote the Constitution. The Constitution has served as the **foundation** of the United States government for over 200 years. In an earlier unit, you learned that the Constitution created three branches of government. These branches are the legislative, executive, and judicial. Now, you will learn more about the U.S. government as written in the Constitution.

Objectives

Read these objectives. They will tell what you will be able to do when you have finished this LIFEPAK®.

1. List some of the requirements for being a United States senator or representative.
2. List some of the duties of the Congress.
3. List the requirements for being president of the United States.
4. Describe at least two duties of the president.
5. Name the highest court in the land.
6. Give the most important duty of the courts.
7. Tell at least one way the Constitution could be amended.

New Words

These words will appear in **boldface** (darker print) the first time they are used.

Anti-Federalists (Ān tī-Fĕd' ə r ə lĭsts). Americans who were against the Constitution.

amend (ə mĕnd'). To change or make better.

amendment (ə mĕnd' mĕnt). A change to a document.

approve (ə prōv'). To agree with something.

assemble (ə sĕm' bəl). To gather together.

bail (bāl). An amount of money that must be paid to get someone out of jail while he or she waits for a trial.

ballot (bāl' ət). A way to vote.

bill (bĭl). A suggestion for a law; a rough draft of a law.

cabinet (kăb' ə nīt). A group of people chosen by the president to help him or her make important decisions.

candidate (kăn' dī dāt). A person who runs for public office.

citizen (sīt' ȳ zən). A person of a certain country; if you live in the United States, you are an American citizen.

compromise (kôm' prə mīz). Settling a problem in a way that each side gives up certain things in order to reach an agreement.

elector (ĭ lĕk' tər). Special representatives from each state that vote for the president.

equal (ē' kwəl). The same number.

executive order (ĭg zĕk' yə tiv ôr' dər). A special law the president can make without the approval of Congress.

Federalists (Fĕd' ər ə lĭsts). Americans who supported the Constitution.

fine (fĭn). An amount that must be paid as punishment for a crime.

foundation (foun dā' shən). The base on which something is built.

illegal (ĭ lĕ' gəl). Against the law.

impeach (ĭm pĕch'). To charge with a crime.

just (jĭst). Fair and right.

justice (jĭs' tĭs). The name of a Supreme Court judge.

majority (mə jôr' ȳ tē). The larger part of a group; at least more than half of the total number.

military (mĭl' ȳ tĕr ē). The armed forces, including the army, navy, air force, marines, and Coast Guard.

misuse (mĭs yooz'). To use something in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose.

oath (oth). A promise to do something.

pardon (par' dn). To completely forgive a crime.

personal (pûr' sə nəl). Having to do with one person.

political party (pə lit' ĭkəl par' tē). A group of people who share certain ideas of how the government should be run.

population (pöp yə lā' shən). The total of all people living in a certain area.

press (prēs). The people or printed items that report the news, such as newspapers, magazines, and television reporters.

privacy (prĭ və sē). To keep something from being shared with others.

propose (prə pōz'). To suggest.

punish (pŭn' ĭsh). To give some sort of treatment for a wrongdoing.

ratify (răt' ə fĭ). To agree with or approve.

responsibilities (rĭ spŏn sə bĭl' ĭ tēz). Jobs or duties.

rights (rĭts). Things every person deserves.

salute (sə loot'). A military greeting that shows respect, usually by lifting a cupped hand to the forehead.

senator (sĕn' ə tər). The name for a member of the Senate.

supreme (soo prēm'). Highest level or greatest in power or respect.

term (tûrm). The length of time something lasts, such as the number of years a person can serve in the government.

treaties (trē' tēz). Agreements between countries.

veto (vē' tō). To refuse to pass a law.

1. ARTICLE ONE—THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Article One of the Constitution is about the legislative branch. This branch is made up of Congress. The representatives in Congress are elected by the people. The framers of the Constitution carefully decided how the legislative branch would work.



Words to Study

bill (bīl). A suggestion for a law; a rough draft of a law.

citizen (sīt' ĭ zən). A person of a certain country; if you live in the United States, you are an American citizen.

compromise (kǒm' prə mīz). Settling a problem in a way that each side gives up certain things in order to reach an agreement.

equal (ē' kwəl). The same number.

foundation (foun dā' shən). The base on which something is built.

impeach (ĭm pēch'). To charge with a crime.

majority (mə jōr' ĭ tē). The larger part of a group; at least more than half of the total number.

population (pǒp yə lā' shən). The total of all people living in a certain area.

punish (pŭn' ĭsh). To give some sort of treatment for a wrongdoing.

senator (sĕn' ə tər). The name for a member of the Senate.

supreme (sōō prēm'). Highest level or greatest in power or respect.

veto (vē' tō). To refuse to pass a law.

Ask your teacher to say these words with you.



Teacher Check _____

Initial

Date



The Great Compromise

Do you remember how the small states worried they would have less power in government than the larger states? The large states had more people.



They thought they should have more votes in government. The framers of the Constitution wanted to make sure all states were treated fairly. Representatives came to an agreement. We call this decision the Great **Compromise**. The Founding Fathers decided to create two parts of the legislative branch. One part is the House of Representatives, or House, and the other is the Senate.

The number of representatives in the House is based on the number of people in a state. The states with a greater **population** have more representatives than states with a small population. But the Senate has an **equal** number of representatives. Each state has two **senators**. This compromise pleased both sides.



Write the correct word on the blank to complete the sentence. Use the words from the list below. Cross out the words as you use them. Not all words will be used.

four	two	framers	population
power	senator	Senate	small
House of Representatives			Great Compromise

- 1.1** The two parts of the legislative branch are the _____ and the _____ .
- 1.2** The small states worried the larger states would have more _____ .
- 1.3** The number of members in the House of Representatives is based on _____ .
- 1.4** A representative of the Senate is called a _____ .
- 1.5** The agreement between the large and small states is called the _____ .
- 1.6** Each state has _____ representatives in the Senate.

The House of Representatives

Today, the House of Representatives has 435 members. This number is based on each state's population. Six states have only one representative. These states are Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. They have the fewest number of people. California has the largest population and the most representatives: 53. House representatives are elected every two years.

Who can be a representative?

To be a House representative, a person must:

- be at least 25 years old,
- have been a **citizen** of the United States for at least 7 years, and
- live in the state that he or she wants to represent.



Fill in the blank with the correct number.

- The House of Representatives has _____ members.
- Six small states have only _____ member(s).
- The state of California has the most representatives with _____.



Choose the correct answer about the rules to be a House representative.

- 1.10** A person must be _____ years old.
 a. 21 b. 25 c. 30
- 1.11** A person must have been a U.S. citizen for at least _____ years.
 a. 5 b. 7 c. 10



Power of the House

Sometimes, a president might break the law. The Founding Fathers wanted to be sure the president could be **punished** for wrongdoing. The House has the special power to **impeach** the president, or charge him with a crime. Representatives vote to impeach a president. If impeached, the president must go to trial before the Senate.

The Senate decides whether or not the president is guilty. If found guilty, he or she can no longer be president.



| The impeachment of President Andrew Johnson

Remember, the framers of the Constitution created “checks and balances” in the branches of government. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate must find the president guilty of a crime. In this way, the legislative branch stays fair, or balanced.



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 1.12** The House of Representatives is based on the _____ of the state.
- a. size b. location c. population
- 1.13** Which one is NOT a rule for being a House representative? The person must _____ .
- a. be at least 25 years old
b. have been a citizen of the United States for 7 years
c. have been born in the United States
d. live in the state for which the person represents
- 1.14** A special power of the House of Representatives is that it can vote to _____ the president.
- a. elect b. punish c. impeach

SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Circle *True* if the statement is correct and *False* if the statement is wrong.

1.01 Every state has two representatives in the Senate.

True False

1.02 California has the fewest number of House representatives.

True False

1.03 The Senate has the power to impeach the president.

True False

1.04 The disagreement between the small states and the large states was settled by the Great Compromise.

True False

Write the correct number in the blank. Use the numbers in the box. Not all numbers will be used. (Hint: For the fractions, remember your coloring activity. Think about the flags and the stars you colored to help you.)

100

50

 $\frac{2}{3}$

435

2

400

 $\frac{1}{3}$

7

- 1.05** The House of Representatives has _____ members.
- 1.06** The Senate has _____ members.
- 1.07** Each state has _____ senators.
- 1.08** A vetoed bill must win _____ of the votes in Congress to become a law.

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line to complete the sentence.

- 1.09** The number of members in the House of Representatives is based on _____ .
 a. size b. age c. population
- 1.010** The president can either sign a bill into law or _____ it.
 a. pass b. veto c. vote for
- 1.011** The trial of an impeached president is led by _____ .
 a. the chief justice
 b. the vice president
 c. a senator

1.012 The vice president only votes if the Senate has a _____ .
 a. disagreement b. bill c. tie

Write S for a rule to be a senator or H for a rule to be a House representative. (Hint: One rule is for both.)

1.013 _____ elected every two years

1.014 _____ at least 30 years old

1.015 _____ elected every six years

1.016 _____ at least 25 years old

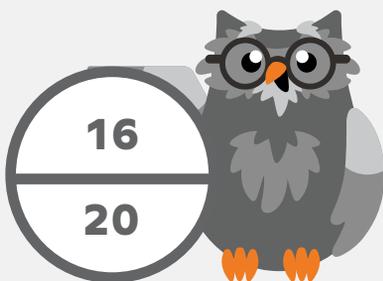
1.017 _____ a citizen for 7 years

1.018 _____ a citizen for 9 years

1.019 _____ live in the state he or she wants to represent

Fill in the number of the article.

1.020 Article ____ of the Constitution is about the legislative branch.

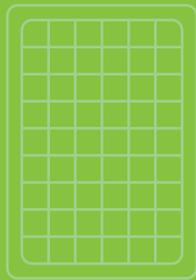
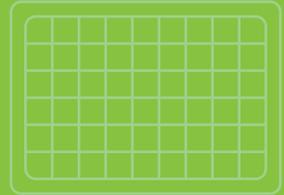


Teacher Check

 Initial Date



My Score



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