



CONSTITUTION: What? When? Who?

- supreme law of the land
- formed the government
- written in 1787
- written by (James) Madison- "Father of the Constitution"
- supported by the Federalist Papers- (John) Jay

"We the People"

- first 3 words of the Constitution
- means self-government *

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (1787)

Amendments (27) - changes/additions

- 10th- reserved powers belong to the states *
- 14th- defines citizenship *
- 15th- all men can vote
- 19th- women's right to vote
- 22nd- two presidential terms max *
- 26th- 18+ can vote
- Bill of Rights (1st ten amendments) - protects basic rights of people

FORMED 3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Separate but equal powers

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

(Congress)

writes laws

Senate (100)

- 2 senators per state/equal representation
- 6-year terms
- represents citizens/people of their state
- elected by citizens *

House of Representatives (435)

- representation based on population
- 2-year terms
- represents people/citizens of their district

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

(President)

enforces laws

- elected 4 years by Electoral College
- vetoes bills
- Commander in Chief
- appoints federal judges
- 2 terms max- prevents excessive power *
- advised by Cabinet
- VP becomes president if President can't serve
- Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Education (Two Cabinet-level positions)

JUDICIAL BRANCH

(Courts)

reviews laws

Supreme Court (9)

- highest court
- 5 Justices needed to decide a case *
- serve for life to be independent of politics *
- Chief Justice John Roberts

The Declaration of Independence influenced the Constitution

REVIEW: ---•

The DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

- was written by Thomas Jefferson
- was adopted July 4, 1776
- said colonies were free from Great Britain
- said all men were created equal *
- speaks of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- includes 2 ideas (in both the Declaration and Constitution): equality and liberty *

2025 test questions*