



The Constitution

The Preamble

- **Introduces the Constitution**
- **WE the people NOT the States (United as One)**
- **Sets the goals of the Constitution**
- **Six Goals**
 - form a more perfect union
 - establish Justice
 - insure domestic Tranquility
 - provide for the common defense
 - promote the general welfare
 - secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity

First Draft: Distributed to Constitutional Convention delegates in August 1787

WE the People of the States
of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts,
Rhode-Island and Providence Plan-
tations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Penn-
sylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Caro-
lina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare
and establish the following Constitution for the Govern-
ment of Ourselves and our Posterity.

Final Draft: Signed by Constitutional Convention delegates on September 17, 1787

WE, the PEOPLE of the UNITED
STATES, in order to form a more per-
fect union, establish justice, ensure 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 Constitu-
tion for the United States of America.

Seven Articles

■ Article 1: Legislative Branch

- Makes the Laws
- Elastic Clause

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsudHmV-B_Y

- 10th Amendment – Powers Reserved for the States

■ Article 2: Executive Branch

- Carries out the Laws

■ Article 3: Judicial Branch

- Interprets the laws

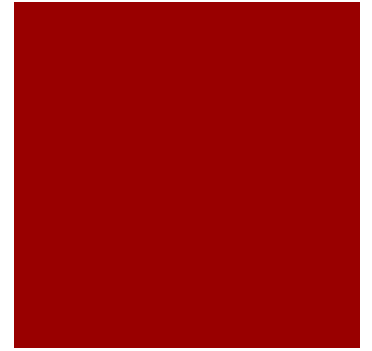
■ Article 4: Relations Among States

■ Article 5: Provisions for Amendment

- First 10 known as the Bill of Rights
- 27 Amendments



Seven Articles



- **Article 6: Federal powers**

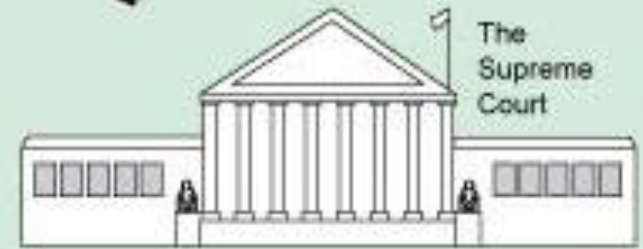
- Laws & Treaties
- Outlines our responsibility for debt
- Oath to be taken when you serve in government (Your promise)

- **Article 7: Ratification**

- Outlines process to approve Constitution
- State conventions
- Nine states must approve

LAW →
of the Land

CONSTITUTION



LEGISLATIVE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIAL

↓
CONGRESS

↓
PRESIDENT → **VICE PRESIDENT**

↓
SUPREME COURT

↙ ↘
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES **SENATE**

Separation of Powers: The distribution of power and authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government.

Checks and Balances



- A system of limits
- Gives each branch the right to amend or void those acts of another that fall within its jurisdiction.
- <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365005484/>