

The Constitution

by Walter A. Hazen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	TITLE	PART OF CONSTITUTION
1	What Is a Constitution?	
2	The Need for the Constitution	
3	The Constitutional Convention	
4	James Madison: Father of the Constitution	
5	A Compromise is Reached	
6	Ratifying the Constitution	Article VII
7	The Makeup of Congress	Article I, Sections 1-3
8	The Powers of Congress	Article I, Section 8
9	Special Powers of the Senate and the House	
10	Limits to Congress's Power	Article I, Section 9
11	The Presidency	Article II, Section 1
12	The Powers of the President	Article II, Sections 2-4
13	The Judicial Branch	Article III, Section 1
14	The Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts	Article III, Section 2
15	The States: Their Relationships with One Another and with the Federal Government	Article IV
16	How Amendments Are Made	Article V
17	The Supremacy of the Federal Government	Article VI
18	The Bill of Rights	Amendment 1
19	The Right to Bear Arms	Amendments 2-4
20	The Rights of the Accused	Amendments 5-8
21	Rights Reserved for the People and the States	Amendments 9 & 10
22	Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts; Election of the President and Vice President	Amendments 11 & 12
23	The Civil War Amendments	Amendments 13-15
24	The Income Tax and the Direct Election of U.S. Senators	Amendments 16 & 17
25	Prohibition and Its Repeal	Amendments 18 & 21
26	Extended Voting Rights	Amendments 19, 23, 24, & 26
27	Changes Regarding Congress and the Presidency	Amendments 20, 22, 25, & 27
28	Checking Your Understanding of the Constitution	

The classroom teacher may reproduce the materials in this book for use in a single classroom only. The reproduction of any part of this book for other classrooms or for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted or recorded in any form without written permission from the publisher.

McDonald Publishing Co.
12621 Western Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92841
www.teachercreated.com

R556 • ©1996 McDonald Publishing Co.
Reprinted, 2022
ISBN: 978-1-55708-534-4
Printed in U.S.A.

Name _____

James Madison: Father of the Constitution

James Madison of Virginia was one of many great American leaders who helped write the Constitution. He was a small man who weighed only one hundred pounds, but what he lacked in physical size he more than made up for in ability. Largely through his efforts, the system of checks and balances in the United States government came about. This system makes sure that no one branch of the government can dominate the other two. Madison also helped determine the way in which Congress was organized.

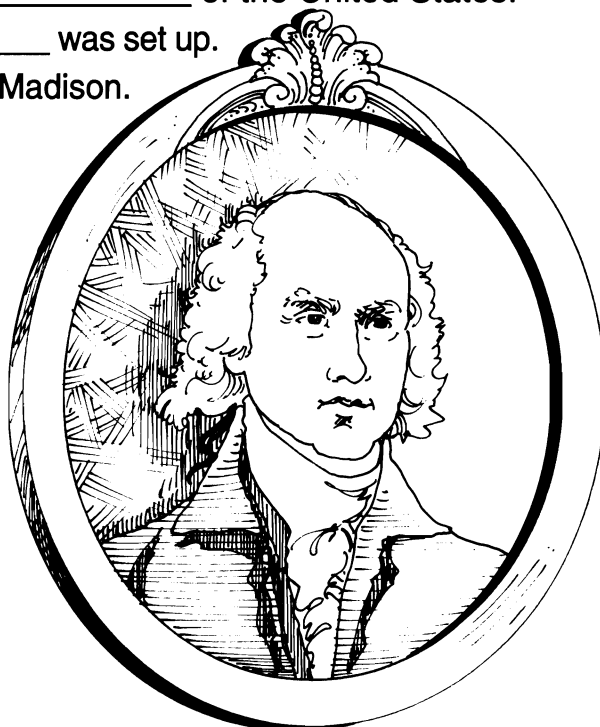
Madison wrote most of the final draft of the Constitution as well as the amendments that eventually were called the Bill of Rights. For this reason, he is known in history as the "Father of the Constitution." James Madison later became president of the United States.

Fill in the blanks below to complete the puzzle about James Madison.

1. _____ Madison helped write the Constitution.
2. Madison is called the _____ of the Constitution.
3. James Madison was a _____ man.
4. The Constitutional _____ met in Philadelphia.
5. James Madison suggested a system of _____ and balances.
6. Madison was a great _____ leader.
7. Madison wrote the final _____ of the Constitution.
8. Madison weighed one hundred _____.
9. The Bill of _____ is part of the Constitution.
10. James Madison eventually became _____ of the United States.
11. James Madison helped plan the way _____ was set up.
12. _____ was the home state of James Madison.

1. J _____
2. A _____
3. M _____
4. E _____
5. S _____

6. M _____
7. A _____
8. D _____
9. I _____
10. S _____
11. O _____
12. N _____



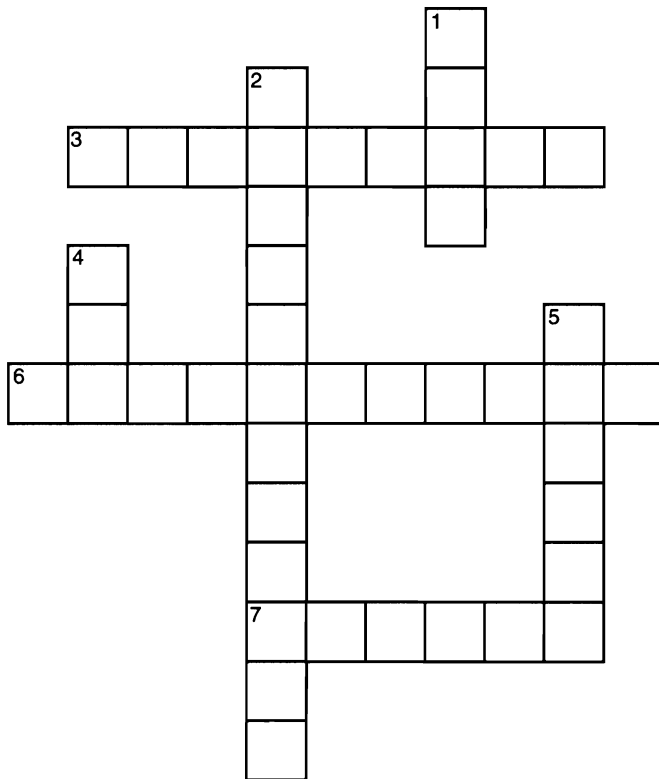
Limits to Congress's Power

Section 9 of Article I is concerned with powers that Congress does not have. For example, except in cases of rebellion or invasion, Congress may not suspend the right of *habeas corpus*. This right guarantees an accused person a speedy appearance before a judge. *Habeas corpus*, which literally means "to produce the body," prevents someone from being arrested or held in jail without just cause.

Congress also cannot pass a bill of attainder or an *ex post facto* law. A bill of attainder is a law that punishes someone without a trial. An *ex post facto* law makes an act illegal after the act was committed.

Article I, Section 9 also states that Congress may not tax exports going from one state to another or to another country.

Use the information above to complete this crossword puzzle.



DOWN

1. *Habeas corpus* means "to produce the _____."
2. The right to a quick appearance before a judge is called the right of _____.
4. What Congress can't do to exports.
5. Congress may not tax goods going between _____ or from a state to another country.

ACROSS

3. A bill of _____ punishes someone without a trial.
6. A law passed to punish someone for an act committed before the act was declared illegal is an _____ law.
7. Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution limits Congress's _____.

Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution also prevents Congress from giving anyone a title of nobility, such as *king* or *princess*. Why do you think the Founding Fathers forbade this? _____

The Powers of the President

The powers of the president can be grouped into categories. Diplomatic powers deal with the relations between countries. Military powers relate to the control of the U.S. armed forces. Legislative powers involve law-making. The judicial powers of the president allow him or her to act as a judge. Executive powers involve the carrying out of duties. Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Article II of the Constitution give the president the powers to do the following:

- serve as commander in chief of the armed forces
- make treaties
- appoint ambassadors to foreign countries
- call Congress together for special law-making sessions
- make appointments to the executive branch
- grant pardons and reprieves for federal crimes
- make appointments to the federal courts
- sign and veto bills
- carry out the laws of the United States



Fill in the information below to group the presidential powers listed above.

1. Two of the above powers fall under the category of diplomatic powers. They are
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. Name the president's military power. _____
3. Two legislative powers of the president are
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. The president has two judicial powers. They are
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. List two executive powers of the president.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
6. Most of the president's decisions require the approval of the Senate. Do you think the president's powers should be limited in this way? Why or why not? _____

How Amendments Are Made

The Constitution has been amended, or changed, twenty-seven times. The first ten of these amendments, those known as the Bill of Rights, came into being in 1791. This means that our Constitution has been amended only sixteen times since then! The Founding Fathers wrote a plan of government so workable and farsighted that it has required only a handful of changes in more than two hundred years.

Article V of the Constitution outlines the two ways the document can be amended. First, Congress can propose an amendment by a two-thirds vote of both houses. Second, two-thirds of the states can request that Congress call a special convention to consider a suggested amendment. This second method has never been used.

Once an amendment passes through Congress or a convention, it must be ratified (approved) by three-fourths of the states. There is usually a time limit of seven years for ratification. Congress may, however, extend the time limit if it so desires. It did so with the Equal Rights Amendment, which has thus far failed to be ratified.

Fill in the correct numbers in the following four sentences.

1. To become part of the Constitution, an amendment must be ratified by at least _____ states.
2. There are one hundred U.S. senators. Two-thirds of them must vote in favor of a proposed amendment. This means that at least _____ senators must support it.
3. Two-thirds of the states can petition Congress to call a special convention to propose an amendment. Therefore, at least _____ states must be in favor of such a convention.
4. The Twenty-Seventh Amendment was first proposed in 1789. It was ratified in 1992. How many years did it take for the amendment to be ratified? _____
5. Why do you think the Founding Fathers made the amending process difficult?

6. Choose one amendment from the Bill of Rights and explain why it was an important addition to the Constitution. _____

