

Review of the Constitution

KEY TERMS

Match the following words with the numbered definitions below: *ratification, impeachment, appropriation, jurisdiction, judicial review, democracy, Bill of Rights.*

1. Charges of crimes or misdeeds in office brought against a government official.
2. Money granted by a legislature to be used for a specific purpose.
3. The first ten amendments to the Constitution.
4. System in which people elect the government either directly or through representatives.
5. The act of giving approval to a document such as a treaty.
6. The limits within which a government body (such as a court) may act and make decisions.
7. The power of the court system to decide whether laws are constitutional.
3. According to Article 2, what happens if the President dies in office? How did the Twenty-fifth Amendment provide additional measures in case of this event?
4. How are federal judges chosen? For how long do they hold office?
5. What freedoms are guaranteed by the First Amendment?
6. Under what circumstances may the Constitution be amended?
7. How does the Constitution limit the President's power to make treaties?
8. What three constitutional amendments were passed soon after the Civil War? What issues caused these amendments to be added?
9. Which branch of government has the power to declare war?

REVIEWING THE FACTS

1. Who holds the office of President of the Senate? When can the President of the Senate cast a vote? Which house of Congress introduces bills needed to raise money for the government?
2. Name six of the specific powers given to Congress by the Constitution. What is the "elastic clause"?

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1. **MAKING JUDGMENTS** The Founding Fathers sought both to create and to limit government power. Is this a contradiction in terms? Did they achieve their goal? Explain your answer.
2. **STATING BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE** How would you respond to someone who said, "Only the President has the information required to make decisions about war. Often he receives this information in secret. Therefore, we should not question his actions"?

3. **MAKING JUDGMENTS** Supporters of constitutional protections for criminal suspects claim that it is better if some guilty people go free than if innocent people are convicted. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your reasons.

4. **FORMING A HYPOTHESIS** Do testing for drug use and ALL violate Fourth Amendment restrictions on search and seizure? How might a lawyer make a case in favor of these tests?

WRITING ABOUT THEMES AMERICAN HISTORY

1. **ISSUES** Find out what constitutional amendments are currently under consideration. Write a report explaining the arguments both for and against two of the proposed amendments.

2. **PARTICIPATION** Research following Supreme Court decisions on civil rights: *Dred v. Sanford* (1857), *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954). Write a report describing constitutional interpretations that changed in each case.

3. **CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE** Search the history of the V Powers Act (1973). How do you illustrate the tension between the executive branch and legislative branch under the separation of powers?