

The United States Constitution

Name _____

A constitution is a set of laws and principles that govern a nation. The United States Constitution is the oldest constitution in the world. It was written in 1787. It was designed after the Revolutionary War so that the colonies would join together under a single government. By 1791, all thirteen of the original colonies agreed to the Constitution, and thus, became states.

The United States Constitution has a preamble, seven articles, and 27 amendments. The preamble is a paragraph that explains the purpose of the Constitution. It begins with the famous words: *We the People*. The articles of the Constitution explain the branches of the government and the amendments are changes to the Constitution. The first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights explains rights of individuals under the Constitution.

1. Why was the Constitution written?

- A. So the colonies could have one government
- B. So the colonies could become different countries
- C. So the Bill of Rights could be written
- D. So people could have individual rights

2. What is not true about the Constitution? (Circle all)

- A. It has 27 articles
- B. It has seven amendments
- C. It has a Bill of Rights
- D. It was written before the Revolutionary War

3. Where would I find how the branches of the government work?

- A. Amendments
- B. Articles
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Preamble

4. Where would I find the purpose of the Constitution?

- A. Amendments
- B. Articles
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Preamble