

**The Constitution: Where, What, and How
Student Handout: The Constitution Scavenger Hunt**

NAME _____ PERIOD _____

1. Mr. Smith would like to run for a Senate seat in Massachusetts. He is 49 years old and has been a citizen of the United States all of his life. He lives in New York and is registered to vote in that state. He owns a house in Massachusetts and visits there occasionally. His business is in Albany, New York. Can Mr. Smith run for the Massachusetts Senate seat? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
2. The president is trying to balance the budget to begin reducing the national debt. One part of his program is to raise income taxes. Into which house of Congress must the president try to get his tax increase bill introduced to see it become law? Why? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
3. Congress sends the president a bill which calls for an increase of ten percent in Social Security payments to the elderly. The president and his advisers believe that this is a bad idea because it will cause inflation and increase the budget deficit. However, the president is reluctant to veto the bill because a large segment of the population is more than 60 years old and Social Security is important to them.
 - a. Can the president simply ignore the bill, neither vetoing nor signing it, and allow it to pass without taking any direct action? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
 - b. Reconsider question 3a in light of the fact that Congress has voted to adjourn for the year in five days. What difference will this make to the president's decision on how to respond to the Social Security bill? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

- c. Congress closes an air force base and an army post. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
- d. Congress buys 15 new trucks for the U.S. Postal Service. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
- e. Congress wishes to regulate the rates charged by bus lines, railroads, and airlines. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
5. The governor of a coastal state claims that her state is being threatened by ships from a neighboring country. To counteract the threat, her state makes a treaty with another foreign nation for mutual defense. Is the governor within her constitutional rights to take this action? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
6. Colorado has six representatives and two senators. How many electors does it have? Why? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
7. A presidential candidate loses the popular vote in the election but wins a majority of votes in the electoral college. Does she become president? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
8. Mr. Ziegler wishes to run for president in the 1996 election. He was born in Seattle, Washington in 1970. Mr. Ziegler has worked for an oil company for the last fifteen years and is now stationed with that company in Houston, Texas, where he has established residency. He is a member of the Republican Party. Can Mr. Ziegler be president? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
9. One morning, Bill Clinton orders 1,000 American troops to Bosnia to serve as military advisors. The president does not ask Congress for a declaration of war and instructs the troops not to engage in combat. Is the president acting within his constitutional powers? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
10. After World War I, President Woodrow Wilson went to Europe to help write the peace treaty that ended the war.
 - a. Was President Wilson acting within his constitutional powers when he helped negotiate the treaty? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

16. The United States has a treaty with Canada concerning fishing rights off the coast of the two countries. U.S. officials find boats belonging to a U.S. fishing company in violation of this treaty. Does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction in this case? Explain. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

17. Mr. Jones is convicted of a crime in Georgia, and a judge orders him to pay a fine of \$10,000. Mr. Jones does not have the money and so he looks for a way out of his situation. He knows that laws differ from state to state, and believes that under Wisconsin law he would not have been convicted. So Mr. Jones moves to Wisconsin, thinking that he can avoid paying the fine by staying there. Is Mr. Jones' logic correct? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

18. The voting age in national elections was lowered to 18 by the 26th amendment in 1971. However, members of the Illinois State Legislature believe that citizens are not mature enough to vote until they reach the age of 21. They pass a law declaring that people must be 21 years old to vote in state and national elections in their state. Does Illinois have the power to make this change? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

19. In 1816 the Supreme Court ruled that it has the power to overturn state laws if those laws violate the U.S. Constitution. What part of the Constitution could the justices have used to support their claim? Explain. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

20. The citizens of Wyoming vote a governor into office who secretly wants to turn his state into a dictatorship. After he takes office, the governor abolishes elections and makes himself ruler for life. Members of Wyoming's State Senate secretly contact the President of the United States for help. The president orders the governor to restore republican government to Wyoming, and moves federal troops to the state's borders. Does the president have the power to take these actions? Explain. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

21. A large number of people in the United States want a constitutional amendment passed that would force the federal government to balance the nation's budget each year. However, the people cannot get a single member of Congress to introduce the amendment. Is there any legal way the people can bypass the Congress and still get the amendment passed? Explain. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

22. The president nominates Ms. Kite to an office in his cabinet. Ms. Kite belongs to a small, but unpopular religious sect. Her religious beliefs become an issue during her confirmation hearings in the Senate. Although Ms. Kite's experience and education qualify her for the post, she is denied confirmation by the Senate. Does Ms. Kite have constitutional grounds to protest the Senate's action? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

b. Was the treaty binding on the United States as soon as Wilson signed it? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

11. The United States has just been attacked by a foreign country. Only Congress can declare war against that country but Congress has finished up its business for the year and adjourned. What power, if any, does the president have to act in this emergency? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

12. Congress is controlled by the Democrats. President Yaeger, a Republican, takes several actions that are opposed by the Democrats in Congress. First, the president introduces a new budget that cuts most of the government's social programs and gives tax breaks to the wealthy. Next, President Yaeger negotiates a trade treaty with a nation accused of human rights abuses. Then, the president gives pardons to three Republican Senators who have been convicted of crimes. Finally, President Yaeger appoints his wife as the Secretary of State, his son as Postmaster General, and his daughter-in-law as head of the FBI. What can the Democrats in Congress do to check each of President Yaeger's actions? Be specific. Budget: Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
Treaty: Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
Pardons: Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____
Appointments: Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

13. Justice Rodriguez was appointed by the president to the Supreme Court two years ago. The president hoped that Rodriguez would vote to support his policies. However, during the last two years, Rodriguez has consistently voted against the president's wishes. Can the president remove Rodriguez as a Supreme Court Justice because of this political disagreement? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

14. Supreme Court Justice Emerson is alleged to have accepted a bribe in a case concerning a large corporation. If the allegation is true, can Justice Emerson be removed from office? Why or why not? Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

15. Mr. Wade was accused of treason during World War I. During his trial, the prosecution brought forward one witness against him. This witness testified that she saw Mr. Wade giving "aid and comfort" to the enemy. Based on this testimony, Mr. Wade was convicted. Although Congress had declared that the punishment for treason would be life imprisonment, Mr. Wade's crime was considered so severe that the judge presiding at his trial ordered him put to death by hanging. In addition, Mr. Wade's wife and children had their citizenship revoked and were denied the right to inherit his property. There are three things wrong with the above scenario. Describe what they are, using passages from the Constitution to support your answer. Article _____ Section _____ Clause _____

23. Below is a list of ideas found in the Bill of Rights. Write the number of the amendment in which each idea is found.
- a. freedom of speech.
 - b. the states keep all powers not given to the federal government.
 - c. right to a speedy and public trial.
 - d. cruel and unusual punishments are illegal.
 - e. freedom of religion.
 - f. indictment by grand jury before trial
 - g. right to assemble peacefully.
 - h. freedom from search and seizure except by a warrant.
 - i. right to a trial by jury in criminal cases.
 - j. right to bear arms.
 - k. freedom of the press.
 - l. trying someone for the same crime twice is illegal.
 - m. accused persons have the right to be informed of the charges against them.
 - n. no quartering of troops in civilian homes.
 - o. right to petition the government.
 - p. a person cannot be forced to testify against himself or herself.
 - q. a person has the right to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her in a trial.
 - r. a person can make witnesses appear in his or her favor.
 - s. a person cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.
 - t. rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens cannot be taken away on the grounds that they do not appear in the Constitution.
 - u. the government cannot take private property for public use unless it pays the owner for the property.
 - v. right to trial by jury in civil cases.
 - w. no excessive bail can be imposed.
24. The owner of a large newspaper prints some of her political opinions which are critical of the policies of the president. She then appears on television and repeats her views. Could she be arrested for printing or speaking ideas that are opposed to the government? Why or why not? Amendment _____.
25. An executive steals \$100,000 from her company. An accountant finds evidence of the crime, but not enough to convict the executive at her trial and she is found not guilty. Three months later, the accountant finds documents that would prove conclusively the executive stole the money. Can anything be done about the executive at this point? Explain. Amendment _____.
26. A man is held in prison for a year before he is brought to trial. His bail is set at \$1 million, much more than he can pay. At his trial he is not told the crime with which he is charged. He asks to have a lawyer, but is told they are all busy at this time. In what four ways was this man's constitutional rights denied? Explain. Amendments _____ & _____.
27. During a police drama series on television, two policemen walk into a man's apartment and seize some rifles. The man shows the police the licenses for the guns and the sales receipts to prove that he owns them legally. Despite his protests, the police confiscate the weapons. For what two reasons is it unlikely that this scene would take place in real life? Explain. Amendments _____ & _____.
28. Below is a list of ideas found in Amendments 11 through 27. Write the number of the amendment in which each idea is found.
- a. slavery abolished.
 - b. federal income tax started.
 - c. alcoholic beverages prohibited.
 - d. separate voting for president and vice-president in the electoral college.
 - e. president can only be elected to two terms.
 - f. judicial power of the United States does not cover suits brought by the citizens of one state against another state.
 - g. former slaves granted the right to vote.
 - h. District of Columbia granted presidential electors.

- i. _____ eighteen-year-olds granted the right to vote.
- j. _____ former slaves made citizens of the United States.
- k. _____ former slaves counted as one whole person for the purposes of representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- l. _____ officers who rebelled against the government no longer allowed to hold office.
- m. _____ direct election of senators.
- n. _____ women granted the right to vote.
- o. _____ congressional sessions begin January 3 of each year.
- p. _____ prohibition repealed.
- q. _____ neither the U.S. government nor state governments will pay debts incurred during the rebellion against the United States.
- r. _____ poll taxes cannot be used to prevent people from voting in federal elections.
- s. _____ all pay raises for members of Congress begin with the next session of Congress.
- t. _____ the vice-president becomes acting president when the president is ill.
- u. _____ inauguration of the president is January 20.

29. The president is assassinated. Her vice-president takes office and serves as president for three years. He then runs for president, is elected, and serves another four years. Can this president now run for another term? Why or why not? Amendment _____

30. A young man registers to vote on his birthday because he is eligible to vote for the first time. How old is he? Amendment _____

31. The Republican candidate for president wins the election but dies of a heart attack three days before inauguration day. Who becomes president? Why? Amendment _____

32. The president has a stroke while in office. He lingers in a coma for several weeks before dying. Who is authorized to serve as acting president during the time the president is in a coma? Who becomes president after he dies? Explain. Amendment _____

33. A black woman tries to vote in her home state, but is told she is ineligible. At the polling place she sees only white males voting. She believes her rights have been denied. What two amendments can she use to support her view? Explain. Amendments _____ & _____