

## CONSTITUTIONAL BINGO REVIEW

**Learning Objectives:** The students will

1. Review key content dealing with the U.S. Constitution.
2. Validate other student's responses to Constitutional questions.

**TEKS/TAKS:** 8.4D; 8.16A; 8.16D; 8.20B; Govt.2A-C; Govt.8D; Govt.8F; Govt.9E; Govt.10A

**Materials Needed:** A copy of the Bingo Review Board for each student; a pair of dice for each group of three or four; Constitution of the U.S. (optional)

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. Explain to the students that they are going to review key ideas in the Constitution by playing a Constitutional Bingo Review game. Divide the class into groups of three or four and give each group a Bingo board and a pair of dice.
2. Go over the rules of the review game:
  - a. The students should number off in the group to determine the order. Designate one person in each group to be the scorekeeper. Explain that the object of the game is to accumulate the most points in the time allowed.
  - b. The first person begins the game by rolling the dice.
  - c. Using the two numbers that the student rolls, he/she will answer the corresponding question on the review board. For example, if he/she rolls a two and a six, he/she should look at the two questions, 2.6 or 6.2. As long as no one has answered the question previously, he/she can choose the question to answer. If someone has already answered the question correctly, the student has to answer the question that remains.
  - d. If both questions have been answered, the student is to pass the turn to the next person.
  - e. Once the student has given his/her answer; the other students in the group validate the answer to determine if the points are to be awarded. They can look in the Constitution or text if needed. If the group rules that the answer is not correct or incomplete, the answering student can challenge and ask the teacher to make the final decision as to the validity of the answer and the awarding of the points.
  - f. Once a question has been answered correctly, all students should mark it out on their board to signify that is a question that has been used.

3. At the conclusion of the game, have the students report the winning score of their group to determine the class winner.
4. The teacher should then go over the answers with the students to assure all questions are answered correctly.

Note: Strategy courtesy of Ray Cox, Spanish teacher, Franklin Middle School, Dallas Independent School District

Possible Bingo Answers:

- 1-1 James Madison is considered the “Father of the Constitution.”
- 1-2 The Articles of Confederation were too weak—the weak central government had no executive power, no power to tax, conduct foreign affairs; regulate trade between the states
- 1-3 One of the major objections of the Anti-Federalists was the lack of a Bill of Rights; another was the power chief executive
- 1-4 The reason the Constitution is called a bundle of compromises is because there were multiple compromises, such as the Great Compromise which created a bicameral legislature (House of Representatives and Senate); the 3/5 compromise which counted 3/5 of the slave population for both taxation and representation in the House of Representatives.
- 1-5 The Convention was held in secret because they really didn’t have the authority to write a new constitution. They were only authorized to modify the Articles of Confederation.
- 1-6 Possible predictions include: the states would have become small independent nations like in Europe; the English, Spanish, or French might have attacked because they saw the U.S. as weak.
  
- 2-1 The three branches of the federal government are the legislative, executive, and judicial
- 2-2 The president is the chief executive and is commander-in-chief of the armed forces; the Congress is the branch that appropriates the money for the troops as well as the only one that can formally declare war.
- 2-3 The legislature would make the law; the executive branch would be the one that would enforce the law; the judicial branch would be able to declare the law or an action of the executive branch unconstitutional if it violated a part of the Constitution.
- 2-4 The term of office of a member of the House of Representatives is 2 years; a Senator is 6 years; and the judicial branch is appointed for life with good behavior.
- 2-5 A revenue bill originates in the House of Representatives because, first, they are elected every two years as opposed to six years in the Senate which makes them more subject to voter’s approval. Secondly, there are 435 members (based on population) rather than 100 (two from each state.)

- 2-6 The bicameral (two-part legislature) was a result of the Great Compromise. The small states were afraid that they would be dominated by the large states. Therefore the House of Representatives is based on population (favors the large states) and the Senate is made up of two senators for each state no matter its size (favors the small states). It takes both to pass a piece of legislation.
- 3.1 The definition of separation of powers is dividing the function of the government into three parts (legislative, executive, and judicial) to prevent any one of them from having too much power.
- 3.2 A check that the President has over Congress is that he/she can veto a bill sent to him by the legislature. He/she can also make appointments and fill vacancies.
- 3.3 Congress can check the President by overriding his/her veto by 2/3 of both houses. Presidential appointments also have to be approved by the Senate.
- 3.4 The “power of the purse” is an important power because the President has no way to raise funds for the operation of the government. All money has to come from Congress.
- 3.5 The people can check both Congress and the President by voting.
- 3.6 The decision of *Marbury v. Madison* established the power of judicial review by the Supreme Court. This allows the court to declare a law or action of the President unconstitutional if there is a constitutional violation.
- 4.1 The positions in the federal government elected by the citizens include members of the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as the President and Vice-President.
- 4.2 The positions that are directly elected are members of Congress (House and Senate). The President and Vice-President are indirectly elected by the Electoral College.
- 4.3 A person can win the popular vote but not win the presidency because he/she did not get the required number of electoral votes (270). This happened in 2000 when Al Gore won the popular vote but lost the electoral vote.
- 4.4 The terms are staggered so that there is stability in the government. At no time would the entire government be overturned by an election.
- 4.5 An effect of directly electing the President would be the necessity of a constitutional amendment and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- 4.6 The founding fathers didn’t completely trust the citizens at the time due to educational levels and experience in participating in the government.
- 5.1 Three-fourths of the states must ratify an amendment.
- 5.2 Two documents that were used to develop the Bill of Rights were the English Bill of Rights and the Virginia Bill of Rights.
- 5.3 Rights that are found in the body of the Constitution include the right to a writ of habeas corpus, no ex post facto law can be passed, no bill of attainder can be passed, and no religious test can be required to hold office.

- 5.4 A person accused of a crime has the right to an attorney and a speedy public trial with a jury of their peers because our system of justice is based on the premise of “innocent until proven guilty.”
- 5.5 The Thirteenth Amendment had to be added to the Constitution because of the previous Supreme Court decision; *Dred Scott v. Sandford* had said that slaves were property.
- 5.6 Individual rights are an example of limited government because they list restrictions on the government with regards to citizens—i.e. government can’t make a law establishing a state religion.
  
- 6.1 An enumerated or delegated power is one given to the federal government; a reserved power is one kept by the states.
- 6.2 An example of an enumerated power is the power to declare war, coin money, regulate interstate trade.
- 6.3 An example of a reserve power of the states is the power to set education requirements, issue licenses such as marriage, hunting and fishing, etc.
- 6.4 If the states had one of the delegated powers, they would be more like a small, independent nation rather than a state in a union of states.
- 6.5 A federal system is one where the federal government and the state government share powers; a unitary system is one where the central government has all of the power.
- 6.6 The reason the founding fathers developed the system of delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers was due in part to the fact that the states had been independent of each other since their creation and were resistant to giving up control over all of their affairs.

# CONSTITUTIONAL BINGO CARD



	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Who is considered the "Father of the Constitution"?	What are the three branches of the federal government?	What is the definition of separation of powers?	Name the positions in the federal government that are elected by the citizens.	What percentage of the states must agree to ratify a constitutional amendment?	What is the definition of an enumerated (delegated) power and a reserved power?
2	Describe a major reason the Constitutional Convention was held.	How would the legislative and executive branches be involved in declaring war on another country?	What is an example of a check the President has over Congress?	Which government positions are directly elected and which are indirectly elected?	What is a previous document that was used to develop the Bill of Rights?	What is an example of an enumerated (delegated) power?
3	What was a major objection of the Anti-Federalists to the Constitution?	How could the three branches all be involved with the same national law?	How can the Congress check the President?	How can a person win the popular vote for President but lose the election?	What is a right listed in the Constitution that one would have if the Bill of Rights had not been added?	What is an example of a reserved power?
4	Why the Constitution is called a "bundle of compromises"?	How are the terms of office different between the members of the legislative branch and the judicial branch?	Why is the congressional "power of the purse" an important check on the executive?	Why are the terms of office of a Representative, and Senator, and President staggered?	Why do people accused of a crime have the right to an attorney and the right to a speedy and public trial with a jury of their peers?	Predict what would happen if the states had one of the delegated powers described in Article 1, Section 8.
5	Why did the men at Philadelphia hold the convention in secret?	Why does a "revenue" or tax bill have to originate in the House of Representatives?	What is a check the people have on both Congress and the President?	What would be an effect of directly electing the President?	Why did the Thirteenth Amendment have to be added to officially end slavery in the U.S.?	What is the difference between a federal system and a unitary system of powers?
6	Predict what might have happened if the Constitution had not been ratified.	Why did the founding fathers create a bicameral (two-part) legislature, consisting of a House of Representatives and a Senate?	How did the decision in <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> establish a check by the judicial branch over the other two?	Why did the founding fathers develop an indirect system of government?	How are our individual rights an example of limited government?	Why did the founding fathers develop the system of delegated, reserved, and concurrent powers?