



LOOPING THROUGH THE CONSTITUTION

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Review key facts about and principles of the United States Constitution.

TEKS: 8.15D

Materials Needed: A set of cards, cut apart. (NOTE—The cards are in the correct order on the handout.)

Teaching Strategy:

1. This activity is to be used as a review of the students' understanding of ideas and key people involved in the writing of the U.S. Constitution.
2. The teacher should keep the first card—"I have the Preamble of the Constitution..." The remaining 29 cards should be handed out, one to each student. For smaller classes, give some students more than one card. For larger classes, pair up some students with a card. It is important for each student to have a card.
3. The activity begins when the teacher reads the question at the bottom of his/her card. The student that has the answer to the question at the top of his/her card then stands and reads the answer. The student then proceeds to read the question that follows at the bottom of their card. The process continues until the loop is complete which occurs when the question read leads back to the question which will lead to the answer "I have the Preamble of the Constitution" on the card held by the teacher. NOTE—To keep students engaged all through the activity, have each student prepare an answer sheet, numbering to 28. As the question is read, allow time for the students to write their answer to the question before allowing the student to stand and give the answer to the question.
4. Conclude the activity by having each student individually answer the following:
 - a. What do you think is the most unique feature of the U.S. Constitution? Explain your answer.
 - b. What are five important ideas/facts you would tell someone who is unfamiliar with the U.S. Constitution?

Looping Through the Constitution Cards

I have the Preamble of the Constitution.



Who has the branch of government that creates the laws?

I have the legislative branch of government.



Who has the term of office of a Senator?

I have six years.



Who has the term of office of a member of the House of Representatives?

I have two years.



Who has the man who served as President of the Constitutional Convention?

I have George Washington.



Who has the branch of government charged with interpreting or explaining the laws or actions of the government?

I have the judicial branch.



Who has a difference in the membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate?

I have the fact one is based on the population of each state and one is made up equally of two per state.



Who has the name of the body that officially elects the President of the United States?

I have the Electoral College.



Who has the part of the legislative branch that must originate all revenue (tax) bills?

I have the House of Representatives.



Who has one of the major roles of the President of the United States?

I have commander-in-chief of the military forces.



Who has the number of justices on the current U.S. Supreme Court?

I have nine.



Who has the term of office of a Supreme Court Justice?

I have life or good behavior.



Who has the constitutional principle that is defined as a government run by representatives chosen through an election process?

I have republicanism.



Who has the constitutional principle that is defined as a government where the ultimate power rests with “we the people” or all the citizens?

I have popular sovereignty.



Who has the name for the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution?

I have the Bill of Rights.



Who has the Amendment that guarantees free speech, press, religion, petition, and assembly?

I have the First Amendment.



Who has the Amendment that guarantees a free and public trial?

I have the Sixth Amendment.



Who has an example of checks and balances concerning the President’s check of the legislative branch’s power to make laws?

I have the power to veto a law.



Who has the Amendment that prohibits illegal searches and seizure by government officials?

I have the Fourth Amendment.



Who has an example of checks and balances concerning the President's power to make appointments, such as a Justice on the Supreme Court?

I have the Senate's right to approve all Presidential appointments by a majority.



Who has an example of the Constitutional principle of federalism?

I have the right of the national government to coin money and the right of the state to regulate education.



Who has the Amendment that guarantees the right of due process?

I have the Fifth Amendment.



Who has the institution that can rule a law unconstitutional?

I have the Supreme Court.



Who has the author of the Declaration of Independence, who was not present at the Constitutional Convention?

I have Thomas Jefferson.



Who has the Amendment that gives the people the right to keep and use guns?

I have the Second Amendment.



Who has the Amendment that protects us from cruel and unusual punishment?

I have the Eighth Amendment.



Who has the Amendment that provides for some rights such as privacy that are not listed in the Constitution?

I have the Ninth Amendment.



Who has the man considered as the “Father of the Bill of Rights” and the fourth president of the U.S.?

I have James Madison.



Who has the introduction to the Constitution that sets out six goals for our government?