

CHAPTER 3 The Constitution

Warmup



How has the Constitution lasted through changing times?

Study the “Then and Now” chart, below, that shows important changes in the United States since the Constitution was ratified in 1788.

Then and Now	1790	2008
Number of states	13	50
Population	3,893,635 (includes ME, VT, KY)	303,834,636
Number of Slaves	694,280 (includes ME, VT, KY)	0
Right to Vote	White male property owners	All citizens regardless of gender, race, religion, or ethnic background
Budget Deficit	75 million dollars	407 billion dollars
Average Life Expectancy	19–25 years	77.2 years
Economy	Agricultural/rural	Corporate/service/urban

What does the chart suggest about the Constitution’s durability?

Exploration

I. The Six Basic Principles

➔ Find Out

A. How have the six basic principles contributed to the long life of the Constitution? Define each principle, using your print or online textbook or other sources. Then explain the importance of each one to the Constitution's longevity.

Definition	Importance to the Constitution's Longevity
1. Popular Sovereignty <i>Political power resides in the people.</i>	<i>Because citizens can vote and have a say in their government, they are more willing to work and compromise for the common good.</i>
2. Limited Government	
3. Separation of Powers	
4. Checks and Balances	
5. Judicial Review	
6. Federalism	

II. Formal Amendment

Find Out

- A.** Of the 27 constitutional amendments, 26 were adopted in the same manner. Describe this method of amendment.

What Do You Think?

- B.** Why do you think this method has been used most often?

Find Out

- C.** Use your print or online textbook, the Constitution, or other sources to identify the subject of each amendment below.

1. 19th Amendment

Subject: _____

2. 24th Amendment

Subject: _____

3. 26th Amendment

Subject: _____

4. 22nd Amendment

Subject: _____

5. 13th Amendment

Subject: _____

6. 1st Amendment

Subject: _____

What Do You Think?

- D.** Which amendment has the greatest effect on your life? Why?

III. Change by Other Means

Find Out

A. Identify the five major agents of change in our government, using your print or online textbook or other sources. Then give two examples of change for each one.

Agent of Change	Examples of Change
1. Congress	Example 1: <i>Set up federal courts (except Supreme Court)</i> Example 2:
2.	Example 1: Example 2:
3.	Example 1: Example 2:
4.	Example 1: Example 2:
5.	Example 1: Example 2:

What Do You Think?

B. Have these five agents of change contributed to the long life of the Constitution? Explain your answer.

Apply What You've Learned Activity

Congress has proposed over 10,000 joint resolutions calling for constitutional amendments. The list of failed amendments may suggest an idea for the amendment proposal that you will create for the Apply What You've Learned Activity. Use the table below to summarize arguments for and against your subject for amendment.

Subject for Amendment:

Arguments in favor	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Arguments opposed	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

A. Which three arguments in favor of the amendment do you think are strongest?

B. How would you answer the three strongest arguments opposed to the amendment?

Essay



How has the Constitution lasted through changing times?

The United States Constitution is one of the oldest written constitutions in the world. This chapter should help you to understand the longevity of what British prime minister William Gladstone called, “the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.” Read the following quotations about the Constitution.

The United States Constitution has proved itself the most marvelously elastic compilation of rules of government ever written.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President

The Constitution of the United States was made not merely for the generation that then existed, but for posterity—unlimited, undefined, endless, perpetual posterity.

— Henry Clay, Senator and Statesman,
Speech in the Senate, January 29, 1850

It is the genius of our Constitution that under its shelter of enduring institutions and rooted principles there is ample room for the rich fertility of American political invention.

— Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President



What Do You Think?

What is your opinion? Write a response to the Essential Question, **How has the Constitution lasted through changing times?** Consider your thoughts on the quotations above, the Guiding Questions in your textbook, and the activities you have done in your Journal. See page 219 for a rubric on writing an Essential Question essay.



Don't Forget

Your answer to this question will help you think about the Unit 1 Essential Question: **What should be the goals of government?**