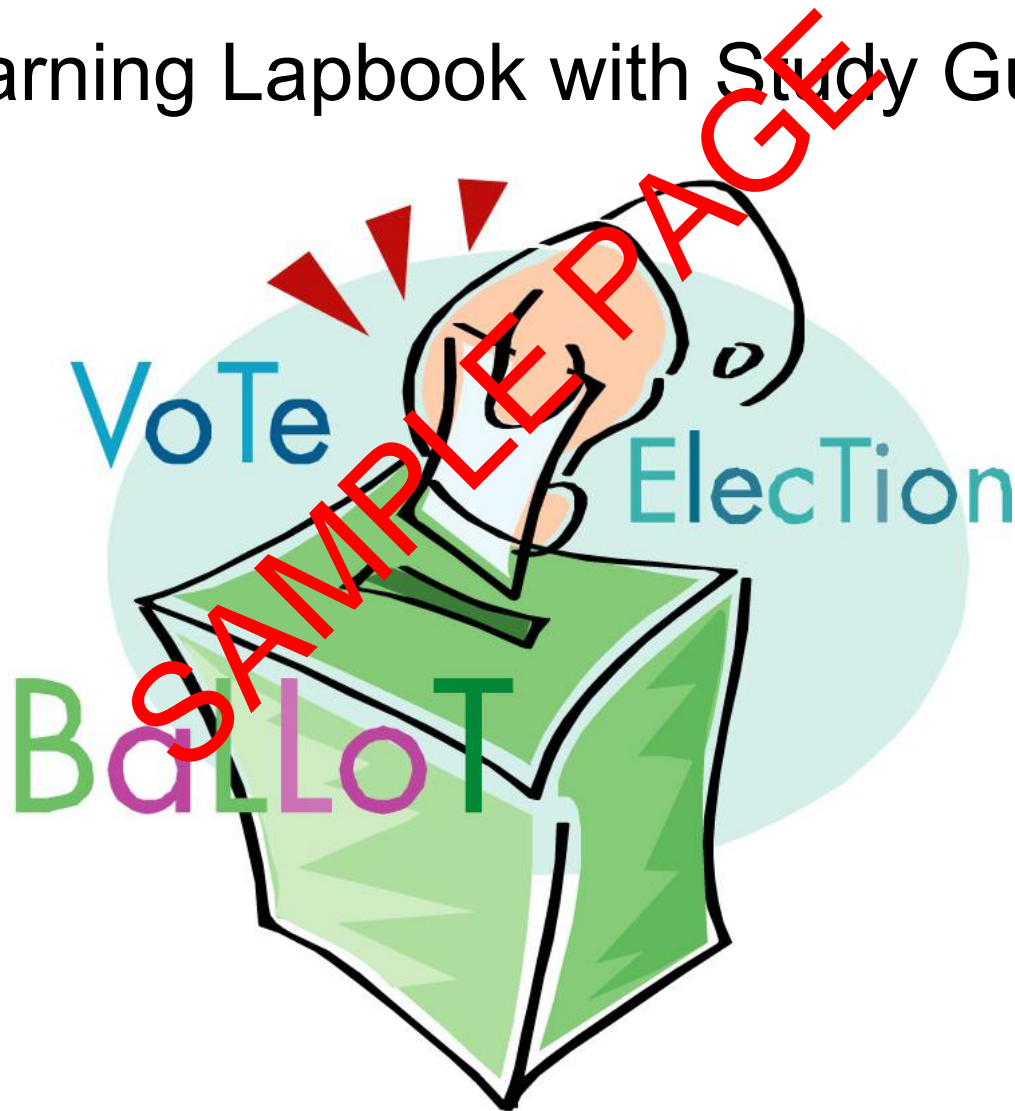




Grades 6-8

# Overview of Government and the Election Process

Learning Lapbook with Study Guide



A Journey Through Learning  
[www.ajourneythroughlearning.com](http://www.ajourneythroughlearning.com)

Authors-Paula Winget and Nancy Fileccia  
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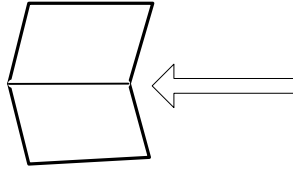
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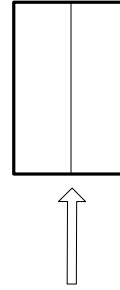
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# Things to Know

**Hamburger Fold**-Fold horizontally



**Hotdog Fold**-Fold vertically



**Dotted Lines**-These are the cutting lines.

**Accordion Fold**-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

**Cover Labels**-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be referred to as "cover label."

## How Long Does it Take to Complete the Lapbook?

Doing a study guide page and mini-booklet a day, a 3-folder lapbook takes about one month to complete. However, you can expand the study portion and make it last as long as you like! That's the beauty of homeschooling! Do it YOUR way!

## Lapbook Assembly Choices

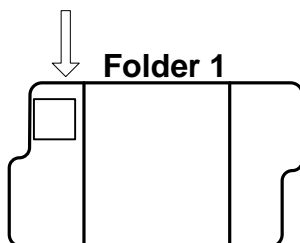
(see photos on how to fold and glue your folders together)

**We recommend using Zip Dry Glue or Elmer's Extreme.**

Choice #1 -Do not glue your folders together until you have completely finished all three folders. It is easier to work with one folder instead of two or three glued together.

Choice #2 -Glue all of your folders together before beginning. Some children like to see the entire project as they work on it. It helps with keeping up with which folder you are supposed to be working in. The choices are completely up to you and your child!

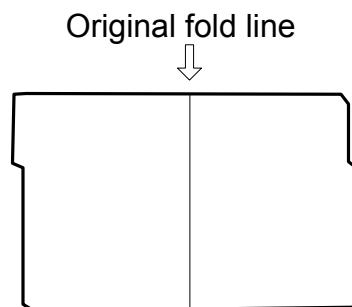
## How do I know where to place each template in the folder?



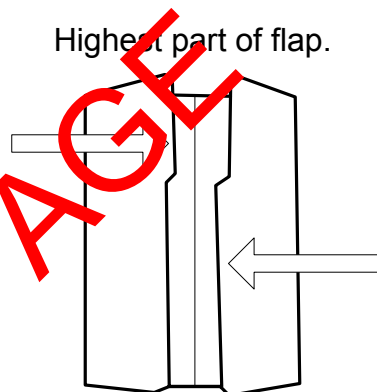
This placement key tells you the template goes in the first folder at the top of the left flap.

# Folding a Lapbook Base

Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.



For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*



Glue your folders together by putting glue (or you may staple) on the inside of the flaps. Then press the newly glued flaps together with your hands until they get a good strong hold to each other. Follow this step to add as many folders as you need for your project. Most of our lapbooks have either 2 or 3 folders.

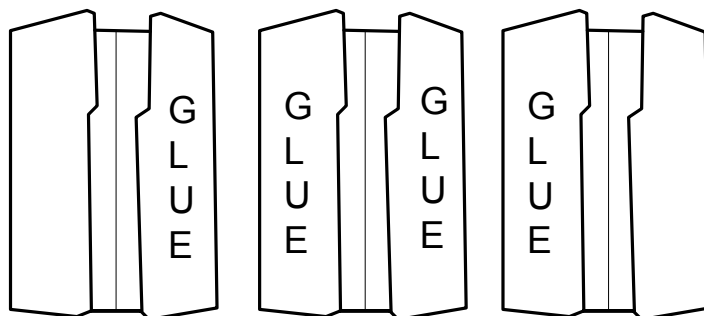
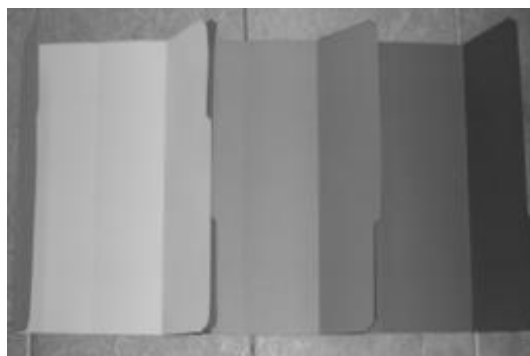
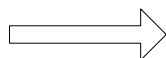


Photo of a completed lapbook base



## Supplies and Storage

- \*Lapbook Pages
- \*3 Colored File Folders
- \*Scissors
- \*Glue
- \*Stapler
- \*Brads (not needed for every lapbook. If brads are not available, a stapler will do.)
- \*Hole Puncher (again, not needed for every lapbook.)

### To make the storage system (optional)

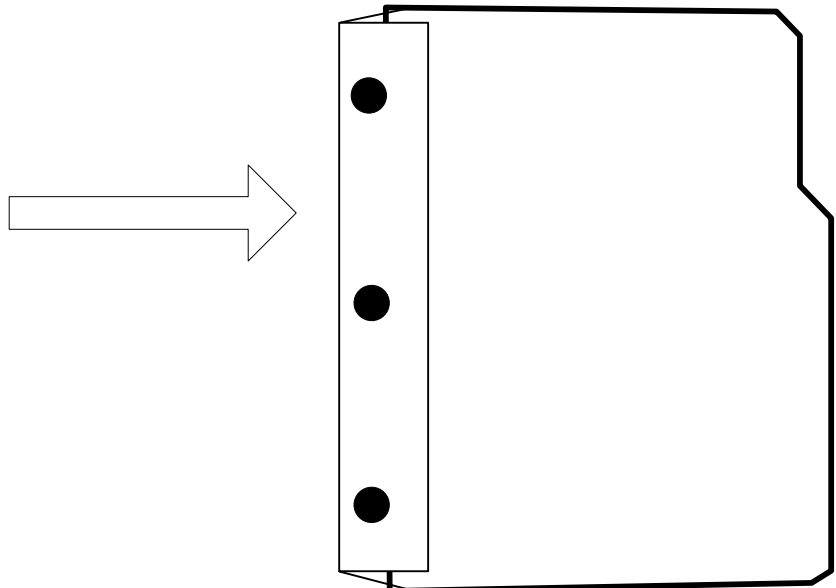
**See details below about the use of a storage system.**

- \*Duct tape (any color)
- \*One 3-ring binder
- \*Hole Puncher

### My child has made several lapbooks. Can I store all of the lapbooks together in one place?

Yes! A three-ring binder serves as a great place to keep your lapbooks. This method of storage not only keeps your lapbooks from getting lost but also keeps them neat and readily available to share with dad, grandparents, friends, etc. When you are through sharing your lapbooks, just place the three-ring binder back on your bookshelf. Below are step-by-step directions of how to prepare each lapbook to be placed in a three-ring binder.

Close the lapbook. Measure a piece of duct tape that is as long as the lapbook. Place the edge of the duct tape on the top edge of the lapbook. Then fold the duct tape over so that it can be placed on the bottom edge. Make sure to leave enough duct tape sticking out from the edges to punch three holes. Be careful when punching the holes that you do not punch the holes in the folder. If you do, that's okay. Then place in three-ring binder. Depending on the size of your three-ring binder, you can store many lapbooks in it.



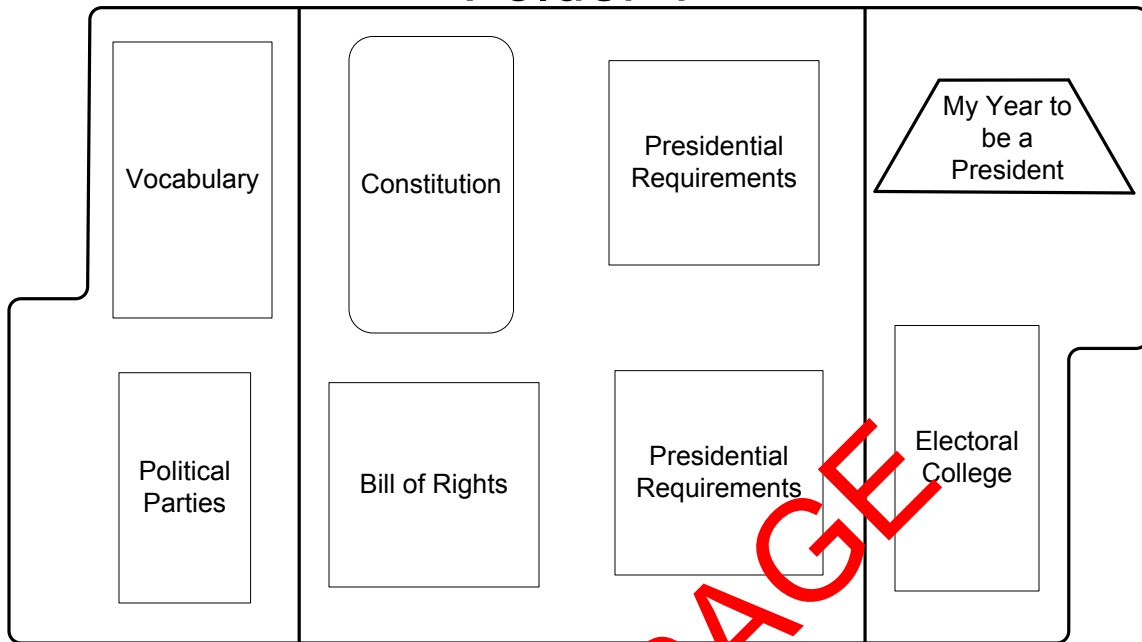
## Table of Contents

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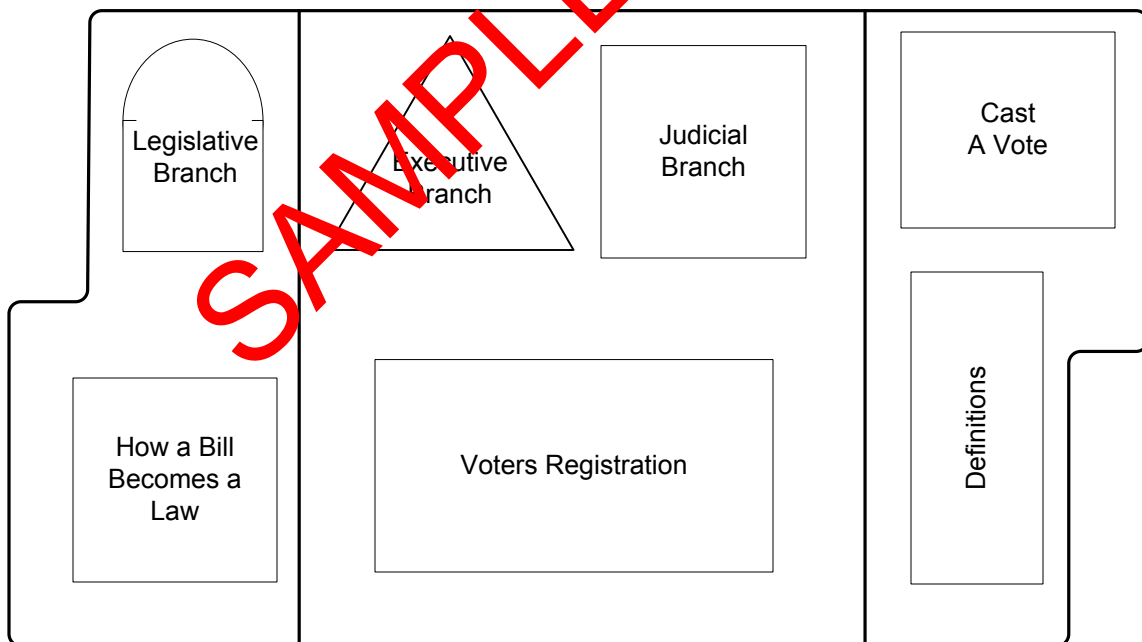
SAMPLE PAGE

# Layout of booklets in each folder

## Folder 1



## Folder 2



Cut out around dotted lines. Glue to front cover of lapbook. Draw a picture or a symbol that reminds you of each topic in your lapbook. Get creative and have fun!!

# Government and the Election Process Lapbook

The Constitution

Electing A President

How Laws are Passed

Electoral College

Political Parties

Election Day

Three Branches of Government

**SAMPLE PAGE**

This belongs to \_\_\_\_\_



# Presidential Elections

The United States is a Republic. This means that the people elect representatives to make laws for the entire country. The process is one of the greatest in the world. It is also known as a democracy because the government obtains power from the people and is accountable to the people for all it does. The Presidential election is the most important election in the United States.

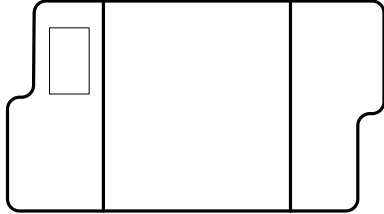
Article II of the Constitution lists the qualifications that any person wishing to run for President or Vice President must meet in order to become a candidate and run for office. First, the person must be 35 years old. Second, he must be a native-born citizen of the United States. Third, he must be a resident of the United States for 14 years. A person must meet these qualifications to even be considered as a candidate for President.

To understand the election process, one must begin with political parties. A political party is an organization of people who join together to win elections, control government, and decide public policy. Political parties are important to all elections. These types of parties have existed in our country since the colonial days. Over the history of the United States, the names and beliefs of these political parties have changed. However, our nation has always had two major political parties. This is known as a two party system. Currently, our major parties are the Republicans and Democrats. During every election, other smaller parties with varying ideas, called third parties, nominate a candidate to try to compete with the major party candidates. Today, the Libertarian Party, Constitution Party, Reform Party and Independent Party are all active third parties striving to make an impact on the politics of our country.

The Constitution does not give specific instructions on how to nominate presidential candidates within the political party. Over the years, many methods have been tried. The first method ever used was called the caucus. This was a meeting of a small group of party members whose purpose is to nominate candidates. Usually, the group was wealthy and powerful men who chose men just like themselves. Next, there were state nominating conventions. They would send delegates to the national convention with instructions about which candidates to nominate. This gradually led to the direct primary. A direct primary is a vote taken by the people of each party to determine who the candidate from that party will be. This method is most commonly used today. The primary will tell party leaders and national nominating convention delegates which candidate has the most popular support. Primaries are held from February through June of the presidential election year.

Both major political parties, the Republicans and Democrats, hold their national nominating conventions in July or August. After the candidates have been nominated, they spend the remainder of the time campaigning. This is the time they use to convince the American people that he/she is the best candidate for the job. The presidential election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as indicated in the Constitution. This is the grand finale of the election process. The newly elected president is then inaugurated, or sworn into office, on January 20. The new president then serves a four year term, but during the last year, the election process begins again.

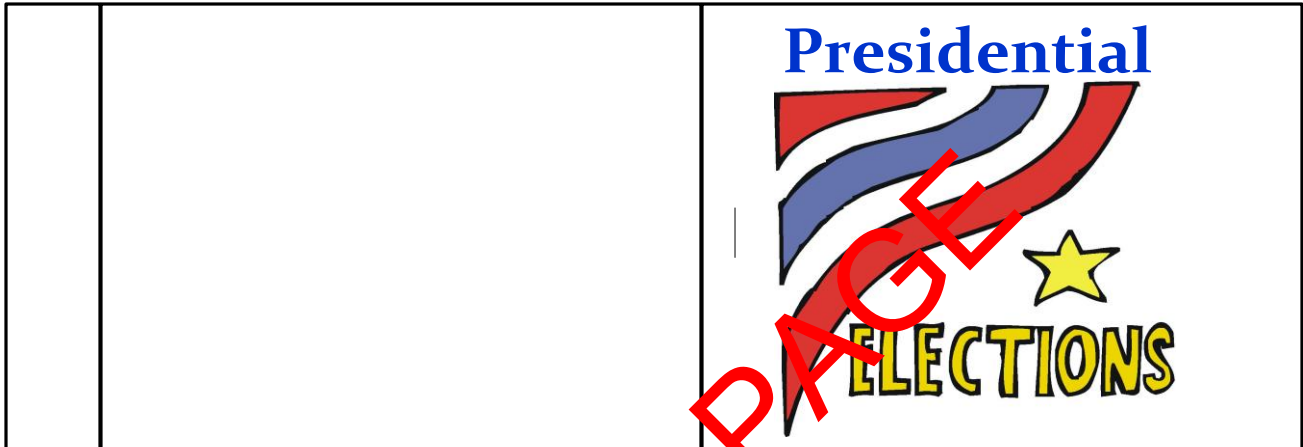
**Folder 1**



**Read Presidential Elections.**

Cut out large booklet. Hotdog fold on the middle line. Do not cut off tab sticking out from the side. Cut out the small squares. Place into booklet and staple on the left side. Fold booklet closed and fold tap up and over so that it keeps booklet closed. Glue into folder.

**Directions:** On each booklet, write the definition of the word.



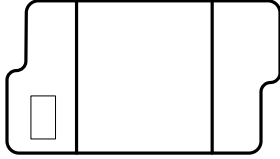
Caucus

Primary

Nomination

Delegates



# Folder 1

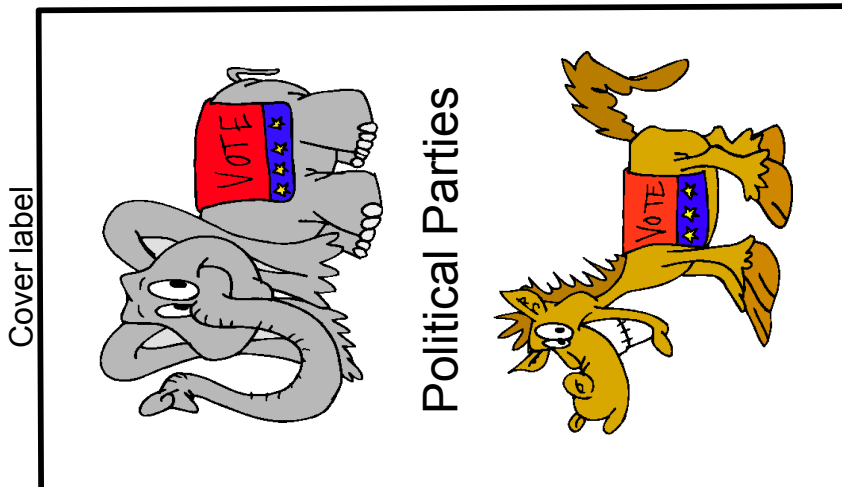


Read **Presidential Elections**.

Cut out and glue into lapbook.

**Directions:** Write the names of the elected officials on the line. Then check whether they are Republican or Democrat.

|                                |       |  |   |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|---|
| President:                     | _____ |  |  |
|                                |       | Republican   | Democrat  |
|                                |       | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Vice President:                | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Senator:<br>(choose one)       | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Representative<br>(choose one) | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |



## The Constitution of the United States

The United States dates back to 1776. After the start of the Revolutionary War, America declared freedom from British rule. The Declaration of Independence was written to define independence of the nation. The Second Continental Congress appointed five men – Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Robert Sherman—to write it. The final draft was adopted on July 4, 1776. This date is celebrated as the birth of the nation referred to as America.

The Articles of Confederation was ratified in 1781. This was an agreement among the 13 founding states that established the United States of America. It proved to establish a weak national government. The people became angry and demanded changes. As a result, in 1787, fifty-five delegates met in Philadelphia to discuss the Federal government. The original purpose was to make changes to the Articles of Confederation. Within a short period of time, the delegates made a bold decision to develop a completely new document. This meeting later became known as the Constitutional Convention. George Washington was the president of the convention. There were many famous men present. James Madison did most of the writing of the Constitution. He became known as “Father of the Constitution.” After many months of debate, on September 17, 1787, the final draft of the Constitution was adopted. It established a much stronger national government, including a powerful executive branch and a Senate to equal out the powers of the House of Representatives in the legislative branch. There were many “checks and balances” between the branches of government written into this document. It was ratified by 11 states and went into effect on March 4, 1789.

The Constitution established the government for the newly formed United States. Article 1 tells about the Legislative Branch. Article 2 provides details for the Executive Branch of government. Article 3 creates the Judicial Branch. Article 4 gives the Relations of States to each other and to the Federal Government. Article 5 gives provisions for alterations to the Constitution through amendments. Article 6 discusses public debts, supremacy of national law and oaths of office. Article 7 gives details pertaining to the ratification of Constitution. When completed, it gave details for a strong nation.

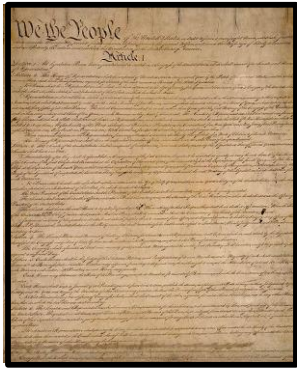
Within a short amount of time, it was decided that some additions needed to be made to the Constitution to ensure the rights of the people. Amendments to the Constitution have been additions to or changes in the original document. The first ten amendments became known as the Bill of Rights. These were added in 1791. Since that time, there have been 17 other amendments ratified to the Constitution.

Every American citizen should be familiar with the Constitution of the United States. The preamble to the Constitution is fun to memorize and reflects the spirit of the entire document. The Constitution is the backbone of the great nation of America and the citizens should take it seriously.

The Constitution is organized into three parts:

- **Preamble:** Describes the purpose of the document and government.
- **Articles:** Establish how the government is structured and how the Constitution can be changed. There are seven articles.
- **Amendments:** Changes to the Constitution; the first ten are called the Bill of Rights

# The Constitution of the United States



The original document

(Preamble)

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article. I. Section. 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

### Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.

### Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

### Section. 4.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

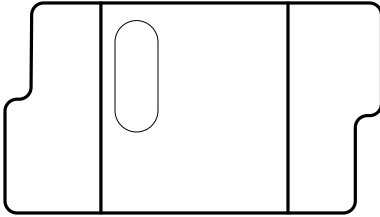
### Section. 5.

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

This is just a small bit of the Constitution. To read it in its entirety go to:

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>

**Folder 1**



Read **The Constitution of the United States**.

Cut out each booklet. Stack together in order of height. Staple at the top. Glue booklet into lapbook.

**Directions:** On each booklet, write what you have learned.

The  
Constitution

When was it signed?

Name 4 signers.

Why was it written?

SAMPLE PAGE

**SAMPLE PAGE**

What are the 3 parts?