NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SCORE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

THE CONSTITUTION  
and  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Why do you think that people write constitutions?

What exactly is a constitution?

Explain it in your own words

Briefly describe the Articles of Confederation.

What is a constitution?

Pretend you were asked to write a state constitution after the Revolutionary War.

What rights would you make sure to protect?

What would you guard against?

What might happen if a country did not have a constitution?

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| CHECKS AND BALANCES & THE SEPARATION OF POWERS |

1. What does “Separation of Powers” mean?
2. Fill in the three branches of government and the checks and balances on this chart:

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| THE CONSTITUTION – |

1. Read the preamble to the Constitution. This is the introduction to the Constitution. The Preamble contains the six goals of the Constitution – find them and write them below:
2. What is the topic of ARTICLE I?
3. Read Section 1. What are the names of the two divisions (or houses) of Congress?



1. Fill in this chart using ARTICLE I of the Constitution:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The name of the division (or house) of Congress | How long is a term?  (How long are you elected for?) | What are the qualifications (requirements) to hold this office? | How many in each state? |
| THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  Section 2  (page 225) | Section 2, clause 1 | Section 2, clause 2 | YOU DON’T HAVE TO WRITE ANYTHING IN THIS BOX! |
| THE SENATE  Section 3  (page 226) | Section 3, clause 1 | Section 3, clause 3 | Section 3, clause 1 |

1. Why do you think the Framers placed the Legislative Branch as the first part of the Constitution?
2. What is the topic of ARTICLE II?
3. According to Article II, section 1, clause 5 what are two qualifications to become the President of the United States?






1. What is the topic of ARTICLE III?

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| THE CONSTITUTION AS A LIVING DOCUMENT |

1. The U.S. Constitution is often referred to as a “living” document. What does that mean?