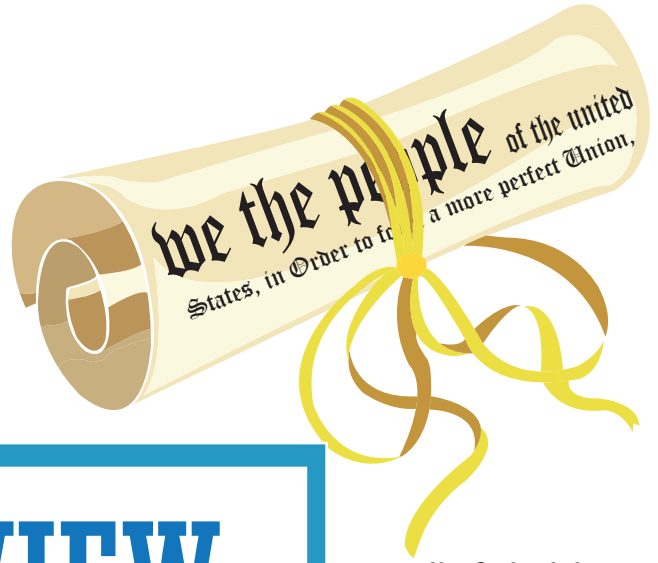


The U.S. Constitution

by Katie Clark



When the founding fathers of America first decided what kind of a government to form, they considered lots of options. Many of them had come from England where they had a monarchy, or a king. They did not like the way things had been done there. They also thought of the ancient Greeks, and their unicameral system. They had paved the way for a democratic republic.

The American leaders looked at the Roman and Greek systems.

A democratic republic is a government where the people elect representatives who are elected, or chosen, by the people. The elected officials are responsible for making laws and carrying out the government's duties.

When the Revolutionary War ended, the states were ruled by the Articles of Confederation. This system was weak. However, it quickly became clear that the states could not govern a new country.

This led the leaders to meet at the Constitutional Convention. Leaders from across the states came together to debate the ups and downs of different types of government. Throughout this process they wrote the Constitution of the United States.

The Constitution is a written document of laws. It had two main focuses. First, it meant to create a federal republic. This meant the government would be run by the

eventually failed, but

so saw how the early democratic republic.

carried out by leaders and American politicians and

as ruled by the Articles should follow.

enough to properly

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states of the country. It also meant to create a separation of powers. This meant no one would have complete power over the land, the way a king might. Instead, there would be three different branches of government. These three branches would each have their own areas of power. The three branches would work together to rule the country.

The three branches of government created by the Constitution were the Executive branch, the Legislative branch, and the judicial branch. The Constitution grants each branch a specific type of power.

The Executive branch refers to the President of the United States. His power is focused on the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. He is the chief of the American troops. He also works with the cabinet and meets with foreign leaders.

The Legislative branch consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. They make laws. They also make plans for following years.

The Judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court and lower courts. Judges and court clerks interpret the Constitution. They have the case to make a final determination.

Separating the three branches of government gave America's early leaders peace that the government would not become corrupted. Each branch would be required to stick to their own areas of power. They would not be able to take power that did not belong to them.

The Constitution also created other laws. It set up the rules that would be used to elect the leaders of the different branches of government. The people within the country would vote for their state representatives. In turn, the state representatives would

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States for at least fourteen years.

At last, the Constitution was ratified, or agreed upon and passed.

The United States Constitution now has twenty-seven amendments. This means twenty-seven additional laws have been added or changed. Amendments have been needed from time to time to adjust the laws that are outdated or no longer needed. For example, laws that pertained to slavery were changed when the slaves were freed during the Civil War.

This written document was put into its creation, and it is still

it was put into its

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The U.S. Constitution

1) Why did the American leaders prefer democracy to the other forms of governance?

2) What are the three branches of government as per the constitution?

3) Write a brief note on

4) Why were the amendments necessary?

5) What, according to the passage, made the amendments necessary?

- a) The outdated and unnecessary laws had to be adjusted.
- b) Every year, new laws were required.
- c) Americans were rebellious and disobeyed laws.
- d) The country had to be inspired by the laws of other countries.

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The U.S. Constitution

1) Why did the American leaders prefer democracy to the other forms of governance?

Americans preferred to have a democratic government because they did not like the way things had been done in monarchy, and the Roman and Greek systems had failed too.

2) What are the three branches of government as per the constitution?

The three branches of government as per the constitution are the Executive branch, Legislative branch, and Judicial branch.

3) Write a brief note on the Executive branch.

The Executive branch is headed by the President of the United States. He is the head of the Executive branch and works with the other branches to manage the government.

4) Why were the amendments necessary?

They had no written constitution, which would be required to stop the abuse of power that did exist in the system.

5) What, according to the passage, made the amendments necessary?

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