



Reading Comprehension

Constitution of the USA

The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America. It was written in 1787 and has been in effect since 1789. The Constitution establishes the federal government and its structure, as well as the rights and freedoms of American citizens.

The Constitution is divided into three main parts: the Preamble, the Articles, and the Amendments. The Preamble sets forth the purpose and goals of the Constitution, including the establishment of justice, the promotion of the general welfare, and the securing of the blessings of liberty.

The Articles of the Constitution establish the three branches of the federal government: the legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative branch, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, has the power to make laws. The executive branch, headed by the President, has the power to enforce the laws and to serve as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The judicial branch, composed of the Supreme Court and other federal courts, has the power to interpret the laws and to hear cases related to federal law.

The Constitution also includes several important provisions that protect the rights and freedoms of American citizens. For example, the First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and the press. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms. The Fourth Amendment protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Fifth and Sixth Amendments guarantee the right to a fair trial, including the right to a grand jury, the right to confront witnesses, and the right to legal counsel. The Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

The Constitution also includes a process for amending the document, which allows for changes to be made as society and the country evolves. The process is not easy, it must be proposed by 2/3 of both houses of Congress or by a convention called for by 2/3 of the state legislatures, and then ratified by 3/4 of the state legislatures. This ensures that any changes to the Constitution are made only after careful consideration and a broad consensus.

One of the most important amendments to the Constitution is the Bill of Rights, which includes the first ten amendments. These amendments were added to the Constitution in 1791 and were intended to further protect the



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rights and freedoms of American citizens. The Bill of Rights includes many of the provisions discussed earlier, such as the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech and religion and the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to bear arms.

Another important amendment is the 14th Amendment which was added in 1868. It clarifies that all citizens of the United States, including African Americans, have the same rights and protections under the Constitution. This amendment was particularly important in the aftermath of the Civil War, as it helped to ensure that the rights of newly-freed slaves were protected.

One of the most debated amendments is the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms. This amendment has been the subject of much controversy and debate, particularly in recent years. Some argue that the Second Amendment is necessary to protect citizens' rights to self-defense and to resist tyranny. Others argue that the Second Amendment is outdated and that stricter gun control laws are necessary to reduce gun violence.

In conclusion, the United States Constitution is a foundational document that establishes the structure of the federal government and protects the rights and freedoms of American citizens. The Constitution's three main parts include the Preamble, the Articles, and the Amendments. The Constitution also includes a process for amending the document, which allows for changes to be made as society and the country evolves.

1. What is the United States Constitution?

2. What are the three main parts of the Constitution?



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3. What is the purpose of the Preamble of the Constitution?

4. What is the significance of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution?

5. What is the debate surrounding the Second Amendment to the Constitution about?

1. The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America, written in 1787 and in effect since 1789. It establishes the federal government and its structure, and protects the rights and freedoms of American citizens.
2. The three main parts of the Constitution are the Preamble, the Articles, and the Amendments.
3. The purpose of the Preamble of the Constitution is to set forth the goals and purpose of the Constitution, including the establishment of justice, the promotion of the general welfare, and the securing of the blessings of liberty.
4. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution clarifies that all citizens of the United States, including African Americans, have the same rights and protections under the Constitution. This amendment was particularly important in the aftermath of the Civil War and helped to ensure that the rights of newly-freed slaves were protected.
5. The debate surrounding the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees the right to bear arms, is about whether this amendment is necessary to protect citizens' rights to self-defense and to resist tyranny or if stricter gun control laws are necessary to reduce gun violence.

Answers: