Guided Reading Activity 3-1

Structure and Principles

**THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION**

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/key-constitutional-concepts> print handout for video

1. Goals for American Government as Stated in the Preamble:
2. Form a more perfect Union
3. Establish justice
4. Insure domestic tranquility
5. Provide for the common defense
6. Promote the general welfare
7. Secure the blessings of liberty
8. Articles: What They Do
9. Article I: Establishes the legislative branch of the national government
10. Article II: Creates an executive branch to carry out laws by Congress
11. Article III: Establishes a Supreme Court and defines its scope
12. Article IV: Explains the relationship of the states to one another and to the national government.
13. Article V: Explains how the Constitution can be amended
14. Article VI: Establishes the laws and treaties made by Congress
15. Article VII: Declares when the Constitution would take effect
16. Purpose of Amendments

Allow the Constitution to remain responsive to the needs of a changing nation.

**PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

[**http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/TBurke1/files/8.5%20Constitution%20Handbook%20-%20Seven%20Principles%20of%20the%20Constitution.pdf**](http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/TBurke1/files/8.5%20Constitution%20Handbook%20-%20Seven%20Principles%20of%20the%20Constitution.pdf)

1. Popular sovereignty – People choose their leaders and give them authority
2. Federalism- Power is divided between national and state governments
3. Separation of Powers- Power is divided among legislative, executive and judicial branches
4. Checks and Balances- Each branch of government exercises some control over others
5. Judicial Review- Supreme Court has the final authority for finding laws and actions of government unconstitutional.
6. Limited Government- The Constitution limits the power of the government by describing its power.

Guided Reading Activity 3-2

**THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

I.The Legislative Branch

A. Economic Power

* 1. levy taxes 4. Regulate commerce
  2. borrow money 5. Coin money
  3. punish counterfeiting

B. Defense Powers

1. declare war 5. Provide navy

2. raise and support the armed forces 6. Regulate armed forces

3. to call forth militia 7. Organize militia

4. punish piracy

C. Other Powers

1. naturalize citizens 4. Establish courts

2. establish post offices 5. Govern D.C.

3. Secure patents and copyrights

II. The Executive Branch

1. Vague Powers
2. Cooperate with Congress 2. Approve or veto bills 3. Issue Executive Orders
3. Specific Powers
4. Commander in chief of the armed forces 6. Call Congress into special session when necessary
5. Appoints heads of executive depart & fed judges 7. Ensure laws of Congress “faithfully executed”
6. Pardon people convicted of federal crimes 8. Commissions military officers
7. Make treaties (w/Senate’s Consent) 9. Meet with heads of state and other federal officials
8. Appoint ambassadors 10. Deliver the annual State of the Union message

III.The Judicial Branch

1. Federal Courts
2. State Courts

Guided Reading Activity 3-3

**Amending the Constitution**

Proposing an Amendment:

1. A 2/3 vote of each house of Congress
2. A national convention called by Congress at the request of 2/3 of the states

Ratifying an Amendment

1. Legislatures in ¾ of the states ratify an amendment
2. Each state calls a special ratifying convention; the amendment becomes part of the Constitution when ¾ of these conventions approve it.

Completing Statements:

1. Informally
2. Government leaders
3. Citizens
4. Enlarged
5. Clarified
6. Succession
7. Judicial review
8. Judicial activism
9. Judicial restraint

Guided Reading Activity 3-4

**The Freedoms of Citizens Under the Bill of Rights**

**The First Amendment:** protects freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, petition and to criticize the government.

**The Second Amendment**: supports the right of citizens to own firearms.

**The Third Amendment**: prohibits the government from forcing people to quarter soldiers in their homes.

**The Fourth Amendment**: protects a citizen’s privacy by requiring authorities to have probable cause and/or a search warrant to search the premises of a person or to seize evidence.

**The Fifth Amendment:** protects people accused of crimes against: being tried without sufficient evidence; being tried for the same offense twice (double jeopardy); being forced to testify against oneself; being deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

**The Sixth Amendment:** protects the right to a speedy public trial by an impartial jury.

**The Seventh Amendment:** provides for the right to a jury trial to settle all disputes about property worth more than $20.00.

**The Eighth Amendment**: prohibits excessive bail; prevents excessive fines and “cruel and unusual punishment.”

**The Ninth Amendment**: assigns all rights not spelled out in the Constitution to the people.

**The Tenth Amendment**: establishes that powers not given to the national government – or denied to the states – by the Constitution belong to the states or to the people.

Matching:

1. 27
2. 16
3. 22
4. 19
5. 15
6. 13
7. 25
8. 14
9. 26