

# WHAT'S IN YOUR CONSTITUTION?

## TEST YOUR CONSTITUTION I.Q.!

The United States Constitution was signed by the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It is the oldest written constitution of any democratic country. How well do you know the document that created our form of government? Take the quiz below to test your Constitution I.Q.

### Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 What is the name of the document, signed on July 4, 1776, that declared that the 13 British colonies in America no longer wanted Great Britain to be their government?  
A. U.S. Constitution      C. Declaration of Independence  
B. Star Spangled Banner      D. Yankee Doodle Doctrine
- 2 The Continental Congress adopted the first constitution of the United States in 1777. It created a loose confederation of sovereign states and a weak central government. The need for a stronger Federal government eventually led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. What was the name of the first constitution?  
A. Magna Carta      C. Gentlemen's Agreement  
B. Articles of Confederation      D. 10 Commandments
- 3 The men who signed the Declaration of Independence creating our new country were called The Founders. Many of the same men, and other state leaders met for the Constitutional Convention in 1787 to work on the new government. These men are called:  
A. Legislators      B. Framers      C. Authors      D. Farmers
- 4 The introduction to the U.S. Constitution, summarizing what the leaders wanted for our country, including safety in the states and a government that would protect the people's freedom, is called the:  
A. Digest      B. Beginning      C. Preamble      D. Chorus
- 5 Which of these famous men is considered the Father of the Constitution for his contributions to writing it and the Amendments:  
A. George Washington, president of the Constitutional Convention  
B. Benjamin Franklin, oldest delegate at age 81  
C. James Madison, recorder of information  
D. Jefferson Davis, politician
- 6 The biggest arguments at the Convention were between the big and small states. They agreed on a government elected by the people. But big states wanted representation to be based on population and small states wanted every state to have the same number of representatives. What was the solution to this argument?  
A. The Big Stick Compromise      C. New Jersey Plan  
B. Virginia Plan      D. The Great Compromise
- 7 The U.S. Constitution has 4,543 handwritten words on four pages. The original document is considered so valuable that there are many safeguards on how it is stored. It is kept in a vault at night designed to withstand a nuclear explosion. Where can you see the U.S. Constitution?  
A. Colonial Williamsburg, Va.      C. Universal Studios, Anaheim, Ca.  
B. Pennsylvania State House      D. National Archives in Washington D.C.
- 8 The men who wrote the U.S. Constitution came to agreement and signed it on Sept. 17, 1787, but it still had to be approved — or ratified — by the people in each state. To get all the states to agree to sign it, what was the bargain that was reached?  
A. Truce      C. Rock, Paper, Scissors  
B. Bill of Rights      D. The First Amendment
- 9 In more than 200 years there have only been 17 more amendments to the Constitution. The most notable of those are:  
A. Amendments 13, 14, 15      C. 26th Amendment  
B. 19th Amendment      D. All of the Above
- 10 In 2005, the Congress passed a bill and the President signed it into law requiring all educational institutions receiving federal funding to teach about the U.S. Constitution. What is the date we celebrate Constitution Day?  
A. July 4      B. Sept. 17      C. April 1      D. June 14

### True /False Questions

True      False

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- The word "democracy" appears in the Constitution?
- Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, was paid \$30 to pen the Constitution.
- George Washington was the only signer of the Constitution who later became a U.S. president.

True      False

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- Some of the signers of the Constitution were Irish.
- There are misspelled words in the Constitution.
- It took about 100 days to actually "frame" the Constitution.
- When the Constitution was signed, the United States' population was 4 million.
- George Washington established the first Thanksgiving Day.

READ ON IN YOUR NEWSPAPER TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR CONSTITUTION I.Q.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS TO THE CONSTITUTION I.Q.!

## Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 C** The **Declaration of Independence** was officially signed in the Pennsylvania State House (now called Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, and the 13 colonies became 13 independent states.
- 2 B** The **Articles of Confederation**, a loose association of states, took effect on March 1, 1781.
- 3 B** The **Framers** possessed a lot of political experience: 8 had signed the Declaration of Independence, 44 had served in the Continental Congress, 6 had been state governors, 34 were lawyers.
- 4 C** The **Preamble** was the last thing to be added to the Constitution. It was a summary of what the Constitution – and the government it created – was meant to accomplish.
- 5 C** **James Madison**, 36, was the first to arrive in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. He arrived three months before the convention began with the blueprint for the new Constitution.
- 6 D** The **Great Compromise** created a legislative branch (Congress made up of two parts: House of Representatives based on population, and a Senate with equal representatives).
- 7 D** Since 1952, the Constitution has been on display in the **National Archives Building in Washington, DC**.
- 8 B** Supporters of the Constitution promised to amend the Constitution so that all the freedoms and rights were spelled out in the **Bill of Rights**.
- 9 D** Known as the Civil War Amendments, **13, 14** and **15** outlaw slavery, give free black men the right to vote and make sure the states protect the freedoms found in the Bill of Rights; **Amendment 19** gives women the right to vote; the **26th Amendment** lowers the voting age to 18.
- 10 B** On **Sept. 17, 1787**, the delegates to the Constitution Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. A federal law in 2004 designated the date as Constitution Day.

## True /False Questions

**FALSE** The word “democracy” never appears in the Constitution.

**TRUE** Jacob Shallus, a clerk, was paid \$30 to pen the Constitution. Today that would be about \$700.

**FALSE** George Washington AND James Madison (our nation’s 4th president and Father of the Constitution) were the two U.S. presidents to sign the Constitution.

**TRUE** Four of the men who signed our nation’s founding document were from Ireland.

**TRUE** Because it was handwritten, there are spelling and grammatical errors in the Constitution. The most common is “Pensylvania.”

**TRUE** It took about 100 days to “frame” the Constitution. The delegates debated from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. six days a week with only a 10-day break during the Convention.

**TRUE** At just 4 million when the Constitution was signed, the U.S. population today is more than 313 million.

**TRUE** A proclamation by President George Washington and a congressional resolution established the first national Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give “thanks” for the new Constitution.

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution at: [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).