

# Vocabulary Activity

## The Constitution

### Content Vocabulary

1. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to explain the differences and similarities among these types of Constitutional power. Use the terms **delegated powers**, **reserved powers**, and **concurrent powers** in your answers.

Delegated Powers	Reserved Powers	Concurrent Powers

2. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to define each branch of the federal government.

Branch	Definition
Legislative	
Executive	
Judicial	

## Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

### The Constitution

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following sentences. If the **bold** term is used correctly in the sentence, write C in the first blank. If the term is used incorrectly, write I, and then explain in the space provided why the term is not used correctly. Include the **bold** vocabulary term in your explanation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A **constitution** is a detailed, written plan for government.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A **bicameral** legislature consists of three separate bodies called houses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A **confederation** is a group of individual state governments that unite for a common purpose.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. An **ordinance** is a type of state constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Federalism** is a system with a single, central government.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. **Popular sovereignty** is the idea that power lies with the people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The principle of **limited government** means that government can do only what the Constitution allows it to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. **Censorship** is the practice of defending free speech.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Separating African Americans and whites is called **segregation**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The hardships brought about by poor government are called **suffrage**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. An **Anti-Federalist** was someone who believed the Constitution would weaken the states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The principle of **rule of law** means that the government makes laws for people to follow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The **supremacy clause** of the Constitution declares the Constitution to be “the supreme law of the land.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. A **civil liberty** is one of the first ten amendments to the Constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The **establishment clause** allows the government to establish an official religion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The **free exercise clause** protects people’s freedom to express their faith as they wish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The right to **free speech** allows people to speak without interruption.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. **Eminent domain** is the right of the government to seize property when investigating a crime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. **Civil rights** are rights to full citizenship and equality under the law.

## Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

### The Constitution

**DIRECTIONS:** In the space provided before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition or description.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ____ 22. <b>Articles of Confederation</b> | a. series of essays written to defend the Constitution    |
| ____ 23. <b>Ordinance of 1785</b>         | b. a group defined by their sexuality and gender identity |
| ____ 24. <b>Electoral College</b>         | c. first constitution of the United States                |
| ____ 25. <b>Federalist Papers</b>         | d. agreement that created a two-house legislature         |
| ____ 26. <b>Northwest Ordinance</b>       | e. decision on how enslaved persons were to be counted    |
| ____ 27. <b>Shays’s Rebellion</b>         | f. peaceful protest against laws believed to be unfair    |
| ____ 28. <b>Great Compromise</b>          | g. meeting of leaders who drew up a plan of government    |
| ____ 29. <b>Three-Fifths Compromise</b>   | h. plan for surveying western lands                       |
| ____ 30. <b>Federalist</b>                | i. plan for admitting states into the Union               |
| ____ 31. <b>Constitutional Convention</b> | j. group selected by voters to choose the president       |
| ____ 32. <b>LGBTQ</b>                     | k. treating people as suspects based on their race        |
| ____ 33. <b>nonviolent resistance</b>     | l. 1786 uprising of Massachusetts farmers                 |
| ____ 34. <b>hate crimes</b>               | m. violence against people because of their identity      |
| ____ 35. <b>racial profiling</b>          | n. supporter of the Constitution                          |

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Include the vocabulary term(s) in parentheses in your answer.

36. Describe each of the three sections of the U.S. Constitution. (**Preamble, articles, amendments**)
37. How do the checks and balances in the U.S. Constitution work with its separation of powers to limit the power of the federal government? (**checks and balances, separation of powers**)
38. Explain why “Jim Crow” laws and poll taxes were types of discrimination and how they were eventually ended. (**“Jim Crow” laws, poll tax, discrimination, amendment**)
39. Describe two exceptions to the First Amendment's guarantees of “freedom of speech” and “of the press.” (**slander, libel**)

## Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

### The Constitution

40. Explain the Fourth Amendment's guarantees against "unreasonable searches and seizures."  
**(probable cause, search warrant)**
41. Describe the process by which the Fifth Amendment protects the rights of someone accused of a serious crime. **(accused, indictment, grand jury, due process)**

**Directions:** Read the following sentences. If the statement is true, write *T* in the first blank. If the sentence is false, write *F*, and then explain in the space provided why the statement is false. Include the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses in your explanation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. The Second Amendment gives people the right to send petitions to their government.  
**(petition)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. The Eighth Amendment prohibits excessive bail, which means bail which is unreasonably high for the circumstances of the crime. **(bail)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. Even after the Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery, black codes kept African Americans from holding certain jobs, restricted their right to own property, and limited their rights in other ways. **(black codes)**

### Academic Vocabulary

**DIRECTIONS:** From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question.

**revise, restrain, retain, conduct, exploit**

45. Which word means "to hold back"?
46. Which term means "to carry out"?
47. Which word means "to improve"?
48. Which term means "to treat unfairly for someone else's gain"?
49. Which word means "to keep"?