We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution for the United States of America.

(Preamble)

The Preamble is the introduction to the Constitution.

The Preamble states the purpose of American government.

The Articles are like chapters or sections to the Constitution.

Article 1 – Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is the branch of government that makes the law, includes Congress.

Section 1 - Congress

Congress consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

What is bicameralism? Means a two house legislature, like Congress.

Section 2 – House of Representatives

# of representatives based on state population as determined by the Census (a counting/survey of the American population every 10 years), 435 members in the House, elected for a 2 year term, requirements for office like age, number of years as a citizen, etc.

Section 3 - Senate

2 Senators from each state, elected for a 6 year term, requirements for office like age, number of years as a citizen, etc.
Section 4
- Elections and meetings

Section 5
- Rules of order

Section 6
- Pay and privileges (amended by the 27th Amendment, concerning Congressional pay raises)

Section 7 – How a bill becomes a law
- A bill (a proposed law) is introduced to Congress, goes through committee first and is passed with a simple majority vote in both houses. President has to sign it or can veto it (rejects it). Veto can be overturned by 2/3 vote in both houses of Congress. (r2)

Section 8 – powers of Congress
- Important because it defines what Congress can do. Powers include taxing, borrowing money, coining money, post offices, can declare war, make laws, etc. (r2)

Section 9
- Powers forbidden to Congress (r2)

Section 10
- Powers forbidden to States (r2 – w2)
**Article 2 – Executive Branch**

The branch of government that enforces laws and includes the President.

**Section 1**

Qualifications for the President, voting for President, salary, etc.

**Section 2**

Powers of the President

**Section 3**

President’s Duties – giving a State of the Union speech,

**Section 4**

Impeachment: To formally accuse a public official of wrongdoing – The House holds impeachment hearings to determine wrongdoing and then the Senate determines if the person is removed from office.

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**Article 3 – Judicial Branch**

The branch of government that interprets the law and includes the Supreme Court.

**Section 1**

Judicial power

**Section 2**

Jurisdiction of Federal Courts - so the Supreme Court is the most powerful court. Guarantee of trial by jury.

**Section 3**

Treason
Article 4 – The States

Section 1
Says states must honor each others’ laws, like marriage licenses.

Section 2
The rights of citizens

Section 3
How to admit a new state

Section 4
Guarantees to states

Article 5 – Amending the Constitution

How to amend the Constitution. An amendment proposed by 2/3 vote of Congress and ratified by ¾ of states.

Article 6 - Federalism

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Federalism – A type of government where power is shared between a federal (national or central) government and state governments.

Article 7 – Ratification of the Constitution

Ratify = to approve. Here, it means how does the Constitution get ratified. Needed ¾ of the states (9 states out of 13 – in 1787).

Amendments 1-10

Amendments 11-27