

# Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

## The Constitution

### Lesson 1 *Structure and Principles of the Constitution*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Locate each heading below in your text. Then use the information under the correct heading and subheading to help you write each answer.

#### I. Structure of the U.S. Constitution

- A. What two opposite experiences of governmental power shaped the Founders' approach to the Constitution?

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- B. What is the Preamble, and what is its purpose?

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- C. What is covered in each of the seven articles?

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- D. What are amendments, and how many times has the Constitution been amended?

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#### II. Principles of the U.S. Constitution

- A. In what way does the Constitution reflect the Founders' strongly held beliefs about the purpose of government and the rights of the governed?

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# Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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## The Constitution

B. What is one way in which the Constitution limits the power of the national government?

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C. What is the relationship between all levels of government in a federal system?

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D. The power of the national government is divided among what three branches?

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E. What is the purpose of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, and what are these called?

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### Summary and Reflection

**Directions:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

Explain how the concept of a federal system was used by the Founders to structure a government that divides power between the national and state governments.

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