

Guided Reading Activity

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The Constitution

Lesson 3 Amendments

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: The Constitution is a flexible, enduring document in part because of the amendment process.

1. **Detail:** Amendments may be proposed by a _____ vote of the House and Senate or by _____ of the states asking Congress to call a convention.
2. **Detail:** Proposed amendments must be ratified by _____ of the states, either through the state legislatures or through special state conventions.

B. Main Idea: The first ten amendments, called the Bill of Rights, protect individual rights by limiting government powers.

1. **Detail:** The First Amendment protects the right of Americans to worship as they please and protects the freedom of _____, of the _____, and the right of the people to assemble and petition the government.
2. **Detail:** The Second Amendment ensures citizens the right to bear _____ or own weapons, while the Third Amendment protects people from being forced to shelter soldiers in their homes.
3. **Detail:** The _____ Amendment protects Americans' privacy by limiting the government's power to conduct search and seizures without a reasonable basis, called _____.
4. **Detail:** The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Amendments provide protections and rights for persons accused of crimes. The Ninth Amendment prevents the government from limiting people's rights to only those in the Bill of Rights; and the Tenth Amendment says that powers not given to the _____ are retained by the _____ or the people.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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C. Main Idea: The remaining amendments to the Constitution make structural changes, extend government power, and extend individual rights.

1. **Detail:** Amendments making _____ changes deal with presidential and senatorial elections, inauguration dates and term limits, presidential disability, and congressional pay raises.
2. **Detail:** The Sixteenth Amendment gives Congress the power to levy individual _____.
3. **Detail:** The three _____ amendments abolish slavery and protect the legal rights of freed enslaved people; the Nineteenth Amendment guarantees women the right to vote; and the Twenty-sixth Amendment lowers the voting age to _____.

D. Main Idea: Americans' understanding of the Constitution has changed over time.

1. **Detail:** The actions of presidents through the years have made the president's role in government much _____ than originally set out by the Founders.
2. **Detail:** The Supreme Court, in the 1954 case _____, overturned a previous ruling when it determined that "separate educational facilities were inherently unequal" and therefore unconstitutional.

Summary and Reflection

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

How has the amendment process helped make the Constitution a flexible and enduring document?
