

Constitution as a “Living Document”

Student Notes

1. Understand the evolution of the American political system, its ideals, and institutions post-reconstruction.

- a. Cite and analyze evidence that the United States Constitution is a —living document as reflected in Supreme Court cases, Amendments, and presidential actions. (DOK 3)*
- b. Analyze and evaluate the impact of presidential policies and congressional actions on domestic reform. (DOK 3)*

2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework

Vocabulary:

Term: opinion

1 2 3 4 5

Draw:

Term: legislation

1 2 3 4 5

Draw:

Term: living document

1 2 3 4 5

Draw:

Term: repealed

1 2 3 4 5

Draw:

Term: overturned

1 2 3 4 5

Draw:

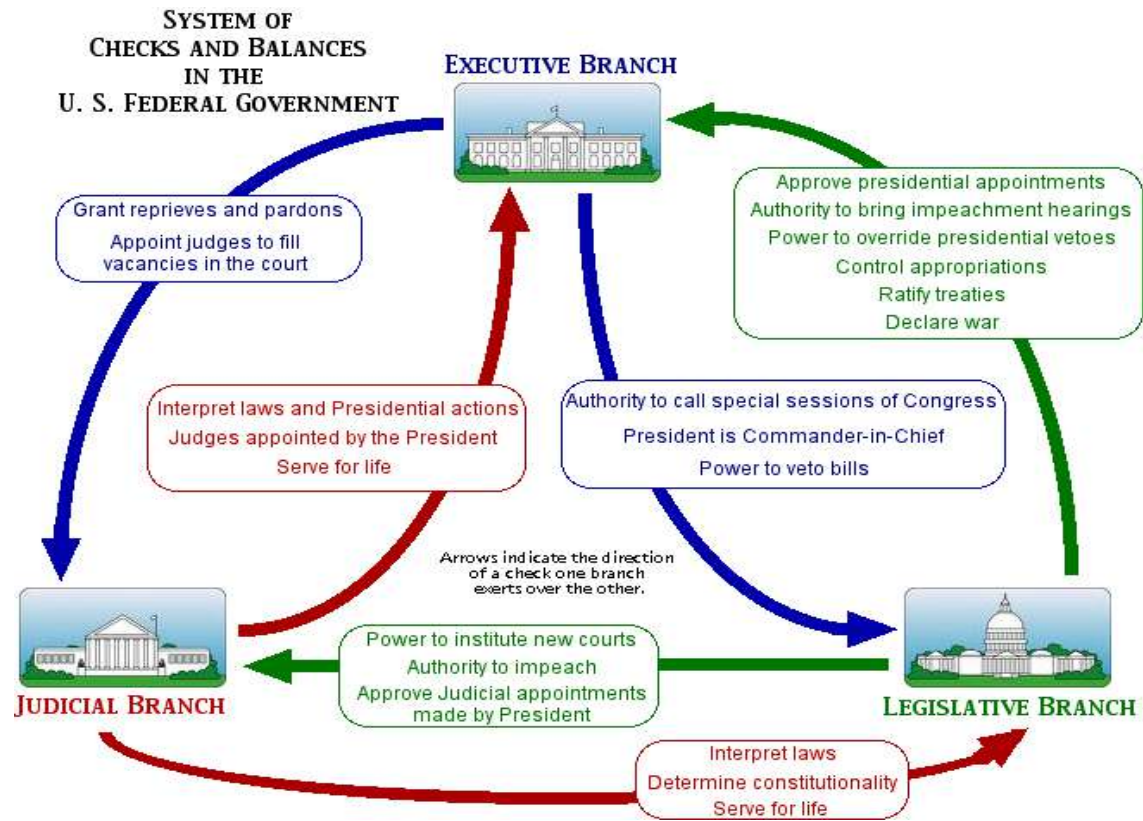
Notes:

1. The introduction to the Constitution is called the _____.
2. The Preamble begins with the phrase "We the _____..."
3. What does that mean?
4. Why was the Constitution written?
5. Who does the Constitution regulate

6. _____ is a change in the Constitution.
7. There have been _____ amendments to the Constitution.
8. The first 10 amendments are called the _____.

9. Separation of Powers:
 1. The legislative - which _____.
 2. The executive - which _____ or make sure the laws are carried out.
 3. The judicial - which _____ or explains the laws and makes sure they are fair

10. The Judicial Branch of the federal government is headed by the _____.
 - Supreme Court justices are nominated by the president and approved by the Senate.
 - There are ___ Supreme Court justices, who are appointed for life.
 - Judicial Review:



Activity 1. The United States government is established to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. Examine the chart above and explain the importance of “checks and balances” for each governmental branch. Draw the image of the Capitol and the White House

Executive Branch	Judicial Branch	Legislative Branch

11. The power of government is also split between the _____ and the _____ government.

12. This is called _____.

13. If the Constitution does not have a law, the states can do what they want.

14. State law cannot contradict federal law, or a Supreme Court Opinion. They must be follow by the letter of the law.

Activity 2. Define the words listed below and cite evidence of how each supports the Constitution as a “living” document. How did these amendments change the Constitution?

U.S. Amendment	Cite the meaning of the Amendment	Provide evidence of changes/how this makes the Constitution a living document
1st Amendment		
5th Amendment		
13th Amendment		
14th Amendment		
15th Amendment		
16th Amendment		
17th Amendment		
18th Amendment		
19th Amendment		
20th Amendment		
21st Amendment		

22nd Amendment		
24th Amendment		
26th Amendment		

Activity 3:

Case	Ruling	Importance \how did it effect Americans
<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>		
<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>		
<i>Schenck v. United States</i>		
<i>Korematsu v. United States</i>		
<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>		