**American Constitution Activities**

**The Preamble**

Write the Preamble to the United States Constitution:

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1. Why does the Preamble start with “We the People”?

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1. According to the Preamble, why was the Constitution written?

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**The Three Branches of Government Assessment**

**Cut out Terms and place them in correct box**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Legislative Branch** | **Executive Branch** | **Judicial Branch** |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Congress | President | Supreme Court | Make laws |
| Enforce laws | Interpret laws | Article I | Article II |
| Article III | Establish Citizenship requirements | Commander-in-Chief | Represent America to the World |
| Power to Tax | Courts | Senate | House of Representatives |
| Settle Disputes between states | Negotiate Treaties | Approve Treaties | Secretary of Treasury |

**Short Answer**

1. Why did the founders create three distinct branches of government?
2. If you could create a law, what would it be? How would it be enforced and interpreted?

**Create Your Own Law**

**How a Bill Becomes Law**

1. Congressperson writes a bill, a proposed law.
2. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate vote. The proposed law (bill) must receive a majority approval in both houses to pass.
3. A President can sign the bill, making it law. Or veto the bill, which prevents it from becoming a law, unless:
4. Congress can override a veto with a ⅔ majority vote in both the House and the Senate.

Think of a new law you would like to see passed. Trace how the law will come into effect, how it will be enforced, and guide courts on what punishment there should be for breaking that law.

**Bill of Rights Assessment**

1. Read the entire Bill of Rights at <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>
2. What rights are listed in each amendment? Fill out Chart. If you are having trouble with the wording, check out <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights/what-does-it-say>
3. Which right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights is the most important and why?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Amendment** |  |
| **Second Amendment** |  |
| **Third Amendment** |  |
| **Fourth Amendment** |  |
| **Fifth Amendment** |  |
| **Sixth Amendment** |  |
| **Seventh Amendment** |  |
| **Eighth Amendment** |  |
| **Ninth Amendment** |  |
| **Tenth Amendment** |  |