**Name:** Ashley Mattern

**Topic name:** The Constitution

**Vocabulary**:

Amendment- any change to the constitution

Federalists- supporters of the constitution

Popular sovereignty- the notion that power lies with the people

Preamble- expresses the reasons the constitution was written; Purposes: form a more perfect union, to establish justice and to provide defense

**Abstracts:**

* The Constitution was written in 1787.
* The Constitution is the highest law in the United States.
* It creates the Presidency, Congress, and Supreme Court.
* The Constitution sets up the government into three branches, the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary.
* The Legislature makes the laws, it is called the Congress. The Congress is divided into two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate.
* The Senate is made up of 100 Senators, two Senators from each state. Senators are elected by the people, which mean that they should represent the interests of all of the people.
* When Congress wishes to pass a law, both the House and the Senate must agree to the law, or it will not pass.
* Before a law may become a law, the President must agree to it. If he does not agree, he vetoes the law. When he vetoes a law, he sends it back to the Congress. Congress can then try to pass the law again.
* The Judiciary branch includes all the federal courts, all the way up to the Supreme Court. The role of the Judiciary is to interpret the laws.
* Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: Commerce Clause: “The Congress shall have power to[…] regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes…”written to limit government influence in economics.
* In 1920, the 19th Amendment was passed; it says that women can vote in all elections.
* With the 13th Amendment, slavery was made illegal.
* The 14th Amendment said that every person born in the United States was a full citizen. Even former slaves were full citizens.
* The 15th Amendment made sure that black people could vote.

**Significant ideas**

1. The writers of the [Constitution](http://www.answers.com/topic/veto-power-of-the-president) gave the president the right to [veto](http://www.answers.com/topic/veto) legislation although that veto can be overridden by the vote of two-thirds of the House and Senate. In fact two types of veto exist. The first is the regular veto in power, through which the president returns the legislation to the Congress unsigned, usually with a message setting out reasons for this action. The second is a [discreet](http://www.answers.com/topic/discreet) form of veto known as the [Pocket Veto](http://www.answers.com/topic/pocket-veto), which is when the president fails to sign a bill within the ten days allowed by the Constitution before Congress adjourns.
2. Members of the Judicial Branch are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Art[icle III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_Three_of_the_United_States_Constitution) of the [Constitution](http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government/judicial-branch), which establishes the Judicial Branch, leaves Congress significant discretion to determine the shape and structure of the [federal judiciary](http://api.getsmartlinks.com/r?app_id=w3i&guid=F9EA58B2-35D6-C64E-A30E-D02874F64CC5&time=133600288&link_id=1834583&cid=437&pid=1&sense=WBgolMd1cbvwIOPR71ML0A&hash=7f33fd942ee0a4aafaf06e4008ef281e&url=http:%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FUnited_States_federal_judge&ref_hash=f3f0455f&v%5blink_target2%5d=_self). Even the number of Supreme Court Justices is left to Congress — at times there have been as few as six, while the current number (nine, with one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices) has only been in place since 1869. Federal judges can only be removed through impeachment by the House of Representatives and conviction in the Senate. Judges and justices serve no fixed term — they serve until their death, retirement, or conviction by the Senate. Protects them from the temporary passions of the public, and allows them [to apply](http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government/judicial-branch) the law with only justice in mind, and not political concerns.
3. The Nineteenth Amendment was enacted in 1920, after a 70-year struggle led by the women's suffrage movement. The 19th amendment states, the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on [account](http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/) of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. In 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Elizabeth+Cady+Stanton) drafted the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, which demanded voting rights, property rights, educational opportunities, and economic [equity](http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Equity) for women. On June 4, 1919, almost 17 months after its introduction by the House of Representatives, the amendment was finally passed by the Senate. On June 4, 1919, 17 months after its introduction by the House of Representatives, the amendment was finally passed by the Senate.

**Necessities:**

* The Bill of Rights was passed because some people feared that the government would have too much power without it. 1. Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly 2. Right to bear arms, [3](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend03#amend03) Quartering of soldiers [4](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend04#amend04) Search and arrest [5](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend05#amend05) Rights in criminal cases;  
  [6](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend06#amend06) Right to a fair trial; [7](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend07#amend07) Rights in civil cases [8](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend08#amend08) Bail, fines, punishment; [9](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend09#amend09) Rights retained by the People; [10](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm#amend10#amend10) States' rights.
* [Article 1 - The Legislative Branch](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article1) **;**[Article 2 - The Executive Branch](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article2) **;** [Article 3 - The Judicial Branch](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article3) **;** [Article 4 - The States](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article4) **;** [Article 5 - Amendment](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article5) **;** [Article 6 - Debts, Supremacy, Oaths](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article6) [Article 7 - Ratification](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Article7) **;** [Amendments](http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html#Amends).

**For Further Information:**

In *Government By The People:* Pgs. 43-49; Amendments: pg. 36-39;

Website: http://www.usconstitution.net/