Module 15: The Constitution as Amended: Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments 15.3 Activity Guide

THE 27 AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Throughout American history, "We the People" have amended our Constitution 27 times—transforming it in important ways. Through the Article V amendment process, we often make it a "more perfect" document. In this activity, you will learn more about key periods of constitutional change and explore the 27 amendments to the Constitution.

The Founding era amendments: 1791 - 1804

Gave us our first 12 amendments, including the Bill of Rights!

Amendment	Read the amendment on the <i>Interactive</i> Constitution.	Summarize the amendment in your own words.	What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment?	What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution?
First Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretations: - Establishment Clause - Free Exercise Clause - Free Speech and Press - Assembly and Petition			
Second Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			

Third Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
Fourth Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
Fifth Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretations: - Criminal Procedure Clauses - Due Process Clause - Takings Clause		
Sixth Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		

Seventh Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
Eighth Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
Ninth Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
10th Amendment 1791	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		

11th Amendment 1795	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
12th Amendment 1804	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		

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Reconstruction era amendments: 1865 – 1870 (There was a 60+ year gap between the Founding and Reconstruction eras.)

Gave us three transformational amendments that many scholars argue represent our nation's "Second Founding."

Amendment	Read the amendment on the <i>Interactive Constitution</i> .	Summarize the amendment in your own words.	What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment?	What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution?
12th Amendment 1804	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			
14th Amendment 1868	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretations: - Citizenship Clause - Due Process Clause - Equal Protection Clause - Enforcement Clause - Privileges or Immunities Clause			
15th Amendment 1870	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			

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The Progressive era: 1913 – 1920 (There was a 40+ year gap between the Reconstruction and Progressive eras.)

Gave us the 16th–19th Amendments.

Amendment	Read the amendment on the <i>Interactive</i> Constitution.	Summarize the amendment in your own words.	What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment?	What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution?
16th Amendment 1913	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			
17th Amendment 1913	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			
18th Amendment 1919	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			

19th Amendment	Text of the Amendment		
1920	Common Interpretation		

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Modern era: 1933 – 1992 (It's been over 30 years since the last amendment!)

Added the remaining eight amendments, little by little, between 1933 and 1992.

Amendment	Read the amendment on the <i>Interactive Constitution</i> .	Summarize the amendment in your own words.	What are three to five key words or terms associated with this amendment?	What were some factors that led to this amendment being added to the Constitution?
20th Amendment 1933	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			
21st Amendment 1933	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation			

22nd Amendment 1951	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
23rd Amendment 1961	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
24th Amendment 1964	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		

25th Amendment 1967	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
26th Amendment 1971	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		
27th Amendment 1992	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretation		