

# The Constitution: A More Perfect Union

## ***How has the Constitution created “a more perfect Union”?***

### PREVIEW

Read the quotation and answer the questions that follow.

*If men were angels, no government would be necessary.*

—James Madison

1. In your own words, what is Madison saying?
2. According to Madison, why are governments necessary?
3. Do you agree with Madison? Why or why not?

### READING NOTES

#### **Social Studies Vocabulary**

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

popular sovereignty

judicial review

federalism

legislative branch

separation of powers

majority rule

executive branch

checks and balances

interest group

judicial branch

interstate commerce

**Section 1**

Read the Preamble to the Constitution below. In your own words, briefly explain what the framers meant by each phrase listed in the chart. An example is done for you.

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

“We the People”      The Constitution bases its authority on the people.

“form a more perfect Union”

“establish Justice”

“insure domestic Tranquility”

“provide for the common defence”

“promote the general Welfare”

“secure the Blessings of Liberty”

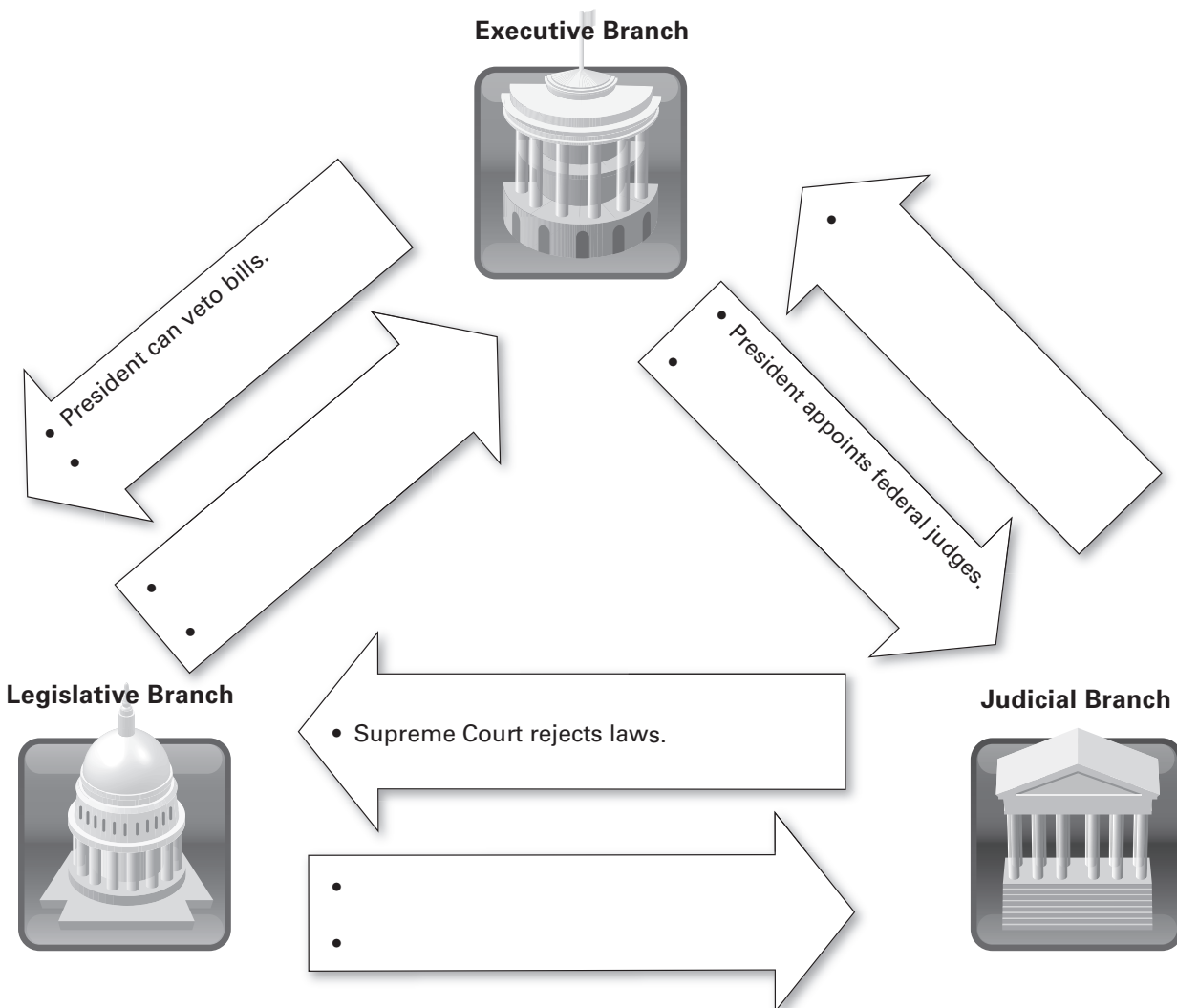
**Sections 2 to 4**

For each of Sections 2 to 4, draw a simple illustration at the top of the column to represent that branch of government. Then complete the column.

	<b>Section 2 Legislative Branch</b>		<b>Section 3 Executive Branch</b>	<b>Section 4 Judicial Branch</b>
	Congress House	Senate	Office of the President	Supreme Court
Number of Members				
Length of Term				
Are Members Elected or Appointed?				
Age Requirement				
Citizenship Requirement				
Two or More Powers of This Branch of Government				

**Section 5**

1. Why did the framers adopt the principle of separation of powers and develop a system of checks and balances?
  
2. Complete the diagram by writing each of the following checks and balances in the correct arrow.
  - Congress can impeach the president.
  - President calls special sessions of Congress.
  - Supreme Court can declare executive actions unconstitutional.
  - President nominates Supreme Court justices.
  - Congress can override vetoes.
  - Congress can impeach federal judges.
  - Congress approves Supreme Court justices.



**Section 6**

1. Why did the framers make it possible to change the Constitution but difficult to do so?
2. Create a simple flowchart showing one way that a constitutional amendment can be proposed and ratified.

**Section 7**

1. Why did the framers establish a federal system of government for the United States?
2. What power does the Commerce Clause give the national government?
3. What advantages were there to having the states share a common market?



## INVESTIGATING PRIMARY SOURCES

**Identifying Evidence**

Consider this question: *How did state constitutions influence the U.S. Constitution?*

Examine the four primary sources in the reading, and write down evidence from each source that helps answer this question.

<b>Primary Source 1</b>	<b>Primary Source 2</b>
<b>Primary Source 3</b>	<b>Primary Source 4</b>

Use the evidence you gathered to make a claim to the question.

Claim:

### Constructing an Argument

Create an argument to answer the question: *How did state constitutions influence the U.S. Constitution?* Your argument should:

- clearly state your claim.
- include evidence from multiple sources.
- provide explanations for how the evidence supports the claim.
- use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion.
- create cohesion among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- establish and maintain a formal style.
- produce a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports your argument.

Use this rubric to evaluate your argument. Make changes as needed.

Score	Description
3	The claim clearly answers the question. The argument uses evidence from two or more primary sources that strongly support the claim. The explanations accurately connect to the evidence and claim.
2	The claim answers the question. The argument uses evidence from one or more primary sources that support the claim. Some of the explanations connect to the evidence and claim.
1	The claim fails to answer the question. The argument lacks evidence from primary sources. Explanations are missing or are unrelated to the evidence and claim.