

**Topic:**

Use the Constitution

**Time:**

3-5 days

**Grade:**

3-5

**Core:**3: 6030-0402  
5: 6050-0502**Objectives:**

1. Students will become more familiar with the Constitution by using it for problem solving situations.
2. Students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of their rights under the Constitution.

**Procedure:**

Discuss with the class the need for rules when playing a game, sports, etc.

1. Introduce the fact that we have a rule book for our country.
2. Distribute copies of a summary of the Constitution to each student. *Prior to this lesson, students should have read over the summary of the Constitution and discussed it. This works better if you discuss only about one-third of it each day.*
3. Distribute HANDOUT 1, "Use the Constitution." (The teacher answer sheets follow student worksheet.)
  - a. **Lower grades.** Divide into groups to work on the worksheet together or work as a class together orally.
  - b. **Upper grades.** Divide into groups or work individually on the worksheet.
4. Handout 1 is probably the easiest and might be sufficient for lower grades. If group is able, use Handouts 2 and 3 following the same procedure.

**Additional Resources:****Author:**

Mary Lou Crane

HANDOUT 1

# USE THE CONSTITUTION

## The Rule Book of the United States

### ARMY MOVES IN

When you get home from school, there are ten army men in your home. They tell you they need to stay in your home until they are transferred. They have put their bags and equipment in your room and have moved your computer and clothes out on the back lawn.



Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### ONE CHURCH

Senator Snoot thinks that if everyone in the United States went to the same church, we would be more united in this country. He wants Congress to pass a law making everyone go to the same church.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### KNOCK KNOCK

You hear a knock at your door, and you answer it. There are five police officers standing there. They tell you they need to come in and look around your house to see if you are hiding anything illegal.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### CAR THEFT

Bill Bully is caught stealing a car parked in front of a 7-eleven. He is put in jail for two years before he has a trial.



Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

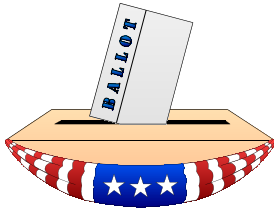
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

HANDOUT 2

CHILDREN VOTE

Your parents go to vote in the election, and you go with them. The person handing out the ballots gives you one and tells you to vote.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_



### PIE AWARD

The Governor demands to see any newspaper article about herself before it is printed. She will decide which articles will be in the newspaper.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### DISNEY DISAPPOINTS

You go to visit your cousin who lives in California. When you get to Disneyland, they won't let you in because California has passed a law that only people who live in California can go to Disneyland.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### RE-ELECTION?

The President of the United States has already had two terms. Can he run again?

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### SHOCKING!

The President of the United States cannot do his job because of an accident. The Vice-President starts taking over the duties of the President.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## THIEF CAUGHT



Ima Thief is caught in the act of stealing three television sets from a store. The police who arrest Ima take her immediately to prison to save the expense of a trial.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## VOTE FOR ANDY

Thirty-year-old Handy Andy decides to run for the United States Senate. He lives in Utah but wants to be a Senator from Wyoming because he has a better chance of winning there.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## GUN LAWS



Mr. Hunter and his son are on their way to hunt deer. They are stopped by a Highway Patrolman for speeding in their truck. When the patrolman sees a gun in the truck, he arrests Mr. Hunter and his son for having a gun.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## JUDGES MAKE LAWS

The Supreme Court Justices decide they are smarter than Congress, so they appoint themselves to make all the laws for the country.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Article and Section: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW LAW

Congress passed a law that the PTA will not be able to hold any more meetings because they have too many members. The government doesn't want any organization getting too powerful.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## HANDOUT 3

### **PRESIDENT SAVES MONEY**

The President of the United States decides he will choose the Senators who serve in Congress and make the laws. He is going to save the country money by not having the cost of elections for Senators.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

Two men knock on your door and inform you that they need to take your television, computer, and CD player for the government to use in their exploration of the Antarctic.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **VOTE FOR SARA**



Sara Somebody decides to run for Senator from Utah. She has lived in Utah all her life, and she is 32 years old.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Article and Section: \_\_\_\_\_

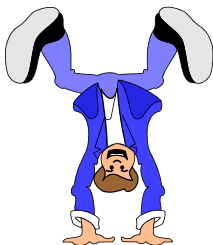
### **SLAVE LABOR?**

Wheat farmers sneaked into Mexico and purchased some nine- and ten-year-old boys. They brought the boys back to their farms to help harvest the crops.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **HAPPY HARRY**

Eighteen-year-old Happy Harry wants to vote in the next election.



Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**WOMEN CAN'T VOTE**

Mr. and Mrs. Anybody went to vote last week. Mr. Anybody was allowed to vote, but Mrs. Anybody was told that women can't vote in this election.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE APPOINTED**

The President of the United States appointed a new Supreme Court Justice to take the place of one who has just retired.



Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Article and Section: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENTS MARCH**

Some fifth grade students decided to march on Capitol Hill to ask Congress to put more money into education.

Do they have this right?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**HANK FOR PRESIDENT**

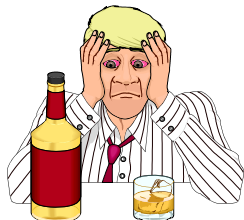
Handsome Hank wants to run for President of the United States. He is 30 years old and has been a citizen for 14 years.



Can Hank run for President?  Yes  No  
Article and Section: \_\_\_\_\_

**BAR IS CLOSED**

The new elected mayor of Sometown decided she had a great idea. She closed all the bars in town and arrested the owners for selling alcohol.



Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## USE THE CONSTITUTION ANSWER SHEET

### The Rule Book of the United States

#### ARMY MOVES IN

When you get home from school, there are ten army men in your home. They tell you they need to stay in your home until they are transferred. They have put their bags and equipment in your room and have moved your computer and clothes out on the back lawn.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 3

#### ONE CHURCH

Senator Snoot thinks that if everyone in the United States went to the same church, we would be more united in this country. He wants Congress to pass a law making everyone go to the same church.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 1

#### KNOCK KNOCK

You hear a knock at your door, and you answer it. There are five police officers standing there. They tell you they need to come in and look around your house to see if you are hiding anything illegal.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 4

#### CAR THEFT

Bill Bully is caught stealing a car parked in front of a 7-eleven. He is put in jail for two years before he has a trial.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 6

#### CHILDREN VOTE

Your parents go to vote in the election, and you go with them. The person handing out the ballots gives you one and tells you to vote.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 26



**PIE AWARD**

The Governor demands to see any newspaper article about herself before it is printed. She will decide which articles will be in the newspaper.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 1

**DISNEY DISAPPOINTS**

You go to visit your cousin who lives in California. When you get to Disneyland, they won't let you in because California has passed a law that only people who live in California can go to Disneyland.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 4

**RE-ELECTION?**

The President of the United States has already had two terms. Can he run again?

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 22

**SHOCKING!**

The President of the United States Cannot do his job because of an accident. The Vice-President starts taking over the duties of the President.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 25

**THIEF CAUGHT**

Ima Thief is caught in the act of stealing three television sets from a store. The police who arrest Ima take her immediately to prison to save the expense of a trial.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 6, 5, 7

**VOTE FOR ANDY**

Thirty-year-old Handy Andy decides to run for the United States Senate. He lives in Utah but wants to be a Senator from Wyoming because he has a better chance of winning there.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 3

## GUN LAWS

Mr. Hunter and his son are on their way to hunt deer. They are stopped by a Highway Patrolman for speeding in their truck. When the patrolman sees a gun in the truck, he arrests Mr. Hunter and his son for having a gun.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 2

## JUDGES MAKE LAWS

The Supreme Court Justices decide that they are smarter than Congress, so they appoint themselves to make all the laws for the country.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Article and Section: Article 1 Section 1

## NEW LAW

Congress passed a law that the PTA will not be able to hold any more meetings because they have too many members. The government doesn't want any organization getting too powerful.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 1

## PRESIDENT SAVES MONEY

The President of the United States decides he will choose the Senators who serve in Congress and make the laws. He is going to save the country money by not having the cost of elections for Senators.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 17

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Two men knock on your door and inform you that they need to take your television, computer, and CD player for the government to use in their exploration of the Antarctic.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Amendment Number: 5

## VOTE FOR SARA

Sara Somebody decides to run for Senator from Utah. She has lived in Utah all her life, and she is 32 years old.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No

Article and Section: Article 1 Section 3

**SLAVE LABOR?**

Wheat farmers sneaked into Mexico and purchased some nine- and ten-year-old boys. They brought the boys back to their farms to help harvest the crops.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 13

**HAPPY HARRY**

Eighteen-year-old Happy Harry wants to vote in the next election.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 26

**WOMEN CAN'T VOTE**

Mr. and Mrs. Anybody went to vote last week. Mr. Anybody was allowed to vote, but Mrs. Anybody was told that women can't vote in this election.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 19

**JUDGE APPOINTED**

The President of the United States appointed a new Supreme Court Justice to take the place of one who has just retired.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Article and Section: Article 3 Section 1

**STUDENTS MARCH**

Some fifth grade students decided to march on Capitol Hill to ask Congress to put more money into education.

Do they have this right?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 1

**HANK FOR PRESIDENT**

Handsome Hank wants to run for President of the United States. He is 30 years old and has been a citizen for 14 years.

Can Hank run for President?  Yes  No  
Article and Section: Article 2 Section 1

**BAR IS CLOSED**

The new elected mayor of Sometown decided she had a great idea. She closed all the bars in town and arrested the owners for selling alcohol.

Can this happen in the United States?  Yes  No  
Amendment Number: 21

