

CONSTITUTION 101

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 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?
First Amendment 1791 	Text of the Amendment Common Interpretations: - Establishment Clause - Free Exercise Clause - Free Speech and Press - Assembly and Petition			

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

<p>Second Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Second Amendment features a circular design with a central figure holding a rifle. The figure is surrounded by various symbols, including a plow, a sheaf of wheat, and a bundle of arrows. The Roman numeral 'II' is positioned at the top of the seal.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>Third Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Third Amendment depicts a classical building with a portico and columns. The Roman numeral 'III' is located at the top of the seal.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>Fourth Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Fourth Amendment shows a magnifying glass with a handle, positioned over a circular emblem that contains a human eye. The Roman numeral 'IV' is at the top of the seal.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			






CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

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15.3 Activity Guide

<p>Fifth Amendment 1791</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Criminal Procedure Clauses- Due Process Clause- Takings Clause			
<p>Sixth Amendment 1791</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>Seventh Amendment 1791</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			






CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide



<p>Eighth Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Eighth Amendment features the Roman numeral VIII at the top, a pair of scales of justice, and a sword.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>Ninth Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Ninth Amendment features the Roman numeral IX at the top and an eagle with its wings spread.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>Tenth Amendment 1791</p>  The seal of the Tenth Amendment features the Roman numeral X at the top and several raised fists.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			

CONSTITUTION 101

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15.3 Activity Guide

<p>11th Amendment 1795</p>  The seal of the 11th Amendment, featuring a circular design with the Roman numeral 'XI' at the top. Inside the circle, there is a gavel, a scroll, and a bundle of documents.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>12th Amendment 1804</p>  The seal of the 12th Amendment, featuring a circular design with the Roman numeral 'XII' at the top. Inside the circle, there is a ballot box with a keyhole and two eagles at the base.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			



CONSTITUTION 101




Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

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			

CONSTITUTION 101




Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

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 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?
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			

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

<p>19th Amendment 1920</p>  The seal of the 19th Amendment, featuring a circular design with the Roman numeral XIX at the top. Inside the circle, two hands are shown holding a document. Below the hands is a ballot box with a slot on top, and the symbols for male (♂) and female (♀) are positioned on either side of the box.	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
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CONSTITUTION 101



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Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

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			

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

<p>22nd Amendment 1951</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>23rd Amendment 1961</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>24th Amendment 1964</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			






CONSTITUTION 101

Module 15: The Constitution as Amended:

Article V and a Walking Tour of America's 27 Constitutional Amendments

15.3 Activity Guide

<p>25th Amendment 1967</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>26th Amendment 1971</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			
<p>27th Amendment 1992</p> 	<p>Text of the Amendment</p> <p>Common Interpretation</p>			