

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Article IV: The States

(See Article IV, Sections 1-4)

In the first three Articles of the Constitution, the founding fathers established the physical structure of our government. But there were still other issues to be solved before the Constitution could begin its work.

The issues still remaining involved the roles of the states in the new government, how to make changes to the Constitution, and how to get the Constitution approved by the current states.

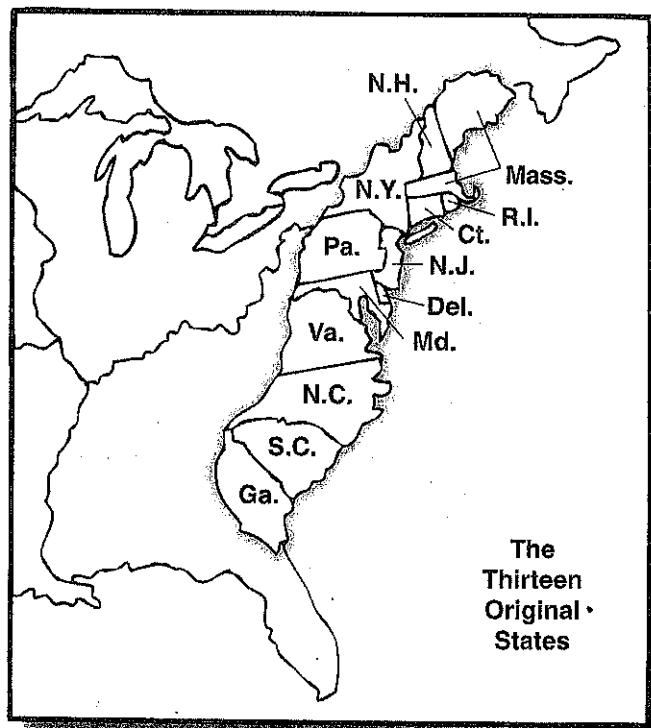
First, in Article IV, the Constitution addresses the states. Before the Constitution, each state acted individually on many issues. It was like having 13 separate countries with a mediocre friendship. The Articles of Confederation had supported this loose association of states. But by 1787, as we studied earlier, the loose friendship was in trouble.

The Constitution set forth a strong central government. The states were not going to be happy with giving up many of the rights they exercised during the previous years. So, the framers of the Constitution wrote Article IV.

The relationships between the individual states had been tense, so Article IV demanded that each state respect the laws and decisions of the other states. Each state is required to treat citizens of the other states the same way it would treat one of its own citizens. If a person broke a law in Missouri and escaped to Georgia, Georgia would be required to send the criminal back to Missouri. The states must work together and respect each other.

Article IV also provides a way for new states to be admitted into the union. Congress was given the power to admit new states, but no new state could come from the property of an existing state, and no two states could join together to form a larger one, unless both state legislatures and Congress approved.

Finally, Article IV guarantees each state a *republican* form of government. What this means is that each state will always have a government elected by the people and not a monarchy. The Federal government will also defend the states against invasion or attack because the states will no longer have individual militaries.



Article IV deals with the relationships between the states.

Date _____ Name _____

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Article IV: The States

≈ Challenges ≈

1. Define:

Republican: _____

2. What issue does Article IV address? _____

3. What must the state of Oregon do about the laws of Idaho? _____

4. Who is given the power to admit new states? _____

5. Could Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire join together to form a new state? How?

6. What is a republican form of government? _____

7. Under the Articles of Confederation, how could the relationship between the states be described?

8. Under the Constitution, how could the new relationship between the states be described?

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Amending the Constitution

(See Article V)

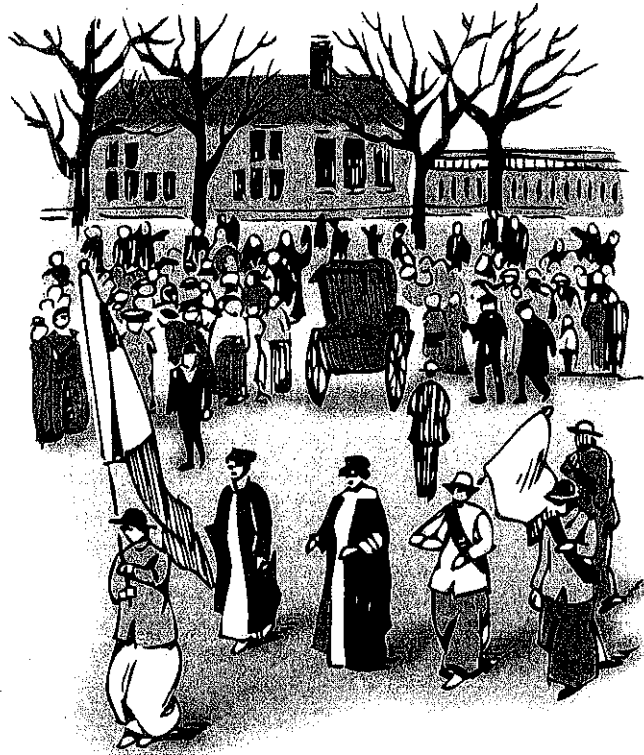
When the founding fathers were writing the Constitution in 1787, they were thinking far into the future. If the Constitution was to become a lasting part of American government, there would have to be room for change. Article V is perhaps the most important part of the Constitution.

Article V provides a way for the Constitution to be *amended*, or changed. The process by which the Constitution can be changed is not an easy one. There are many steps that must be gone through. By making the process a difficult one, the framers hoped to avoid changing the Constitution too quickly. Any change that would be made must be a good one.

There are two ways to propose an amendment to the Constitution. For example, let's say we wish to lower the age requirement to be President from 35 to 30. One way to start the amendment would be to get two thirds of both houses of Congress (House and Senate) to agree. The other way to propose an amendment is through a constitutional convention called by two thirds of the state legislatures.

If our amendment was approved by either of the two above groups, then the amendment must be *ratified*, or formally approved. There are two ways to ratify an amendment: three fourths of the legislatures in the states must ratify any amendment, or three fourths of the states must have individual constitutional conventions to ratify the amendment.

Throughout the past 200-plus years, there have only been 27 changes to the structure of the Constitution. Our founding fathers established a system that was basically sound and problem free. While there are, of course, errors, the United States Constitution is the oldest written constitution in the world. Our Constitution has been the example that many other countries of the world have used to formulate their own governments. We can be proud of that!



Parades were held to encourage the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted suffrage to women.

Date _____ Name _____

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII
Amending the Constitution
~ Challenges ~

1. Define:

Amend: _____

Ratify: _____

2. What issue does Article V address? _____

3. What two ways can an amendment be proposed?

a) _____

b) _____

4. What two ways can an amendment be ratified?

a) _____

b) _____

5. What fraction must propose an amendment, and what fraction must ratify an amendment?

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Articles VI and VII

(See Articles VI and VII)

Articles VI and VII complete the original Constitution. Article VI confirms the authority of the Constitution, and Article VII describes how the Constitution must be ratified, or approved.

In Article VI, the founding fathers establish the Constitution as the "supreme law of the land." The Constitution is the highest, most important document in the United States. No state, county, or city laws will be superior to the Constitution. It is the job of the judicial branch to see that no laws in the country are in conflict with the Constitution. For example, if Indiana passed a law making it possible for Indiana to print its own money, that law would be void, or unenforceable, because the Constitution says that only the Congress can print or coin money. Article VI also states that officials of the United States government must promise to support the Constitution.

Article VII is the final section of the original Constitution. When the Constitution was written during the summer of 1787, the Articles of Confederation were still governing the United States. In order for the Articles to be replaced by the Constitution, the Constitution had to be ratified, or approved, by nine states. So in order for the plan of government set forth in the Constitution to begin, nine of the thirteen states had to approve. They completed the Constitution on September 17, 1787, twelve years after the United States declared its independence from England.

The writers of the Constitution then signed the document. Their names are below:



The signing of the Constitution

	George Washington, Virginia President of the Convention
Delaware:	George Read, Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Jacob Broom
Maryland:	James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll
Virginia:	John Blair, James Madison, Jr.
North Carolina:	William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Hugh Williamson
South Carolina:	John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler
Georgia:	William Few, Abraham Baldwin
New Hampshire:	John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman
Massachusetts:	Nathaniel Gorman, Rufus King
Connecticut:	William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman
New York:	Alexander Hamilton
New Jersey:	William Livingston, David Brearley, William Paterson, Jonathon Dayton
Pennsylvania:	Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Thomas FitzSimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouverneur Morris

Date _____ Name _____

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Articles VI and VII

~ Challenges ~

1. Why did the framers include Article VI in the Constitution? _____

2. Is it possible for the city of Chicago to make a treaty with the country of Germany? Why or why not?

3. How many states must ratify the Constitution before it can go into effect? _____

4. On what day was the Constitution signed? _____

5. How many years after the Declaration of Independence was the Constitution written?

6. What document was governing the United States before and during the writing of the Constitution?

7. List four signers of the Constitution whose names you recognize:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____