

The Mini Page

Next Week:
Tigers

Issue 19, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

Article I: Legislative Branch

Mini Fact:

Several of the sections in Article I have been altered by amendments, or changes made later.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States."

In the last issue of this series, we learned about separation of powers. We learned that the founders created three branches of government.

The Constitution gives each branch the power to do different things.

Listed powers

Some of the powers are listed or expressed, or enumerated (e-NOOM-erate-ed).

Suggested powers

Some legislative powers are from a part of the Constitution that says that Congress shall make all laws that are "necessary and proper" for carrying out the powers granted by the Constitution.

This is called the "elastic clause," or part, because it stretches the powers of Congress.

Common powers

There are a few powers that most governments in the world have, so the United States has them too. For example, our national government can make citizens of foreign nations leave the country.

Article I

Article I deals with the legislative branch. This is the branch of our government where laws are made.

Let's study how a bill becomes a law.

1. Proposal: A bill is proposed in either the House or the Senate and sent to a committee to handle the subject.

2. Committee action: Since so many bills are proposed, the committee chooses only a few for further study.

3. Debates held: The House and the Senate discuss the bill, change (or amend) it, vote on it, and either pass or reject it.

4. Conference committee agrees: If there is a difference between the bill presented to the House of Representatives and one passed by the Senate, a conference committee works on the differences.

5. Full vote: The conference report, or rewritten bill, is sent back to the House and the Senate for a "yes" or "no" vote by members.



President Trump signs the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017 in the Oval Office.

6. President signs: The bill is sent to the president for signing. If he vetoes (doesn't sign) it, it is sent back to the House and Senate. If it passes again after the veto, with a two-thirds vote in each house, it becomes a law.

The first law

The very first act of Congress, signed into law by President George Washington on June 1, 1789, was "An Act to regulate the Time and Manner of administering certain Oaths."

The new law required that all members of Congress, all federal officials, all members of state legislatures, judiciaries (court officials) and executives take the simple 14-word oath above.



Officials still take an oath to support the Constitution today.

In 2005, Betty Debnam, creator of The Mini Page, worked closely with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to create a nine-part series of issues about our U.S. Constitution. This is the fourth issue in the series, which will continue once a month until Election Day 2020.

Resources



On the Web:

- [archives.gov/founding-docs](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs)

At the library:

- "What Is the Constitution?" by Patricia Brennan Demuth

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of bills and laws are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ARTICLE, BILL, BRANCH, COMMITTEE, COMMON, CONSTITUTION, DEBATE, HOUSE, LAW, LEGISLATIVE, LISTED, OATH, POWER, PRESIDENT, PROPOSAL, REPORT, SENATE, SIGN, SUGGESTED, VETO, VOTE.

W C T N P O W E R E R P O R T S
B R A N C H P R E S I D E N T
D E B A T E V K D E T S I L E
H E N A N O M M O C N G I S L
O T O E S U O H I B I L L E C
N O I T U T I T S N O C V N I
C V S O D E T S E G G U S A T
E E T T I M M O C G W A L T R
J E L A S O P O R P Q F D E A
V T E V E V I T A L S I G E L

Cook's Corner

Graham Cracker Topping

You'll need:

- 2 cinnamon graham crackers
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon

- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



What to do:

1. Place graham crackers in a small plastic bag and smash into crumbs.
2. Mix crumbs with brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl.
3. Combine melted butter with vanilla; pour over crumb mixture.
4. Coat a small baking pan with cooking spray.
5. Pour crumb mixture into pan; bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.
6. Use as topping for ice cream or frozen yogurt. Makes 2 servings.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Mini Jokes



Bill: How do oceans say hello to each other?
Laura: They wave!

Eco Note



Does anyone you know suffer from **asthma**? This condition makes it hard for children and adults to breathe, especially when certain **triggers** in the air get into a person's lungs. Asthma triggers include: pollen, mold, dust mites, pet dander, secondhand smoke, and even cold air or having cockroaches in the home. What can you do to help prevent asthma attacks? Use bathroom fans to help prevent mold; keep pets away from your bed and furniture; ask adults to stop smoking or to smoke outside.

adapted from epa.gov

For later:

Look through your newspaper for articles about bills that Congress has passed and the president has signed.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



1. Someone who forms words with pencil, pen or computer (6-letter noun)
[][][][][][]

2. A person who lives in a place with rights of a country (7-letter noun)
[][][][][][][]

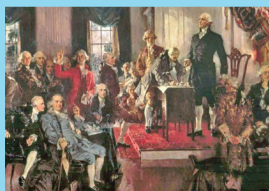
3. Guides for conduct, behavior or action (5-letter plural noun)
[][][][][]

4. People making up a form of political control (10-letter noun)
[][][][][][][][][][][]

1. Gavin is a _____ of books about spaceships and rockets.
2. Margaret is a proud _____ of the United States.
3. Molly learned the _____ to play a card game with Amy.
4. A mayor makes decisions about the city _____.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Writer, Citizen, Rules, Government.

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