

Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s
Topic 2 Content: The Constitution of the United States Notes

Introduction

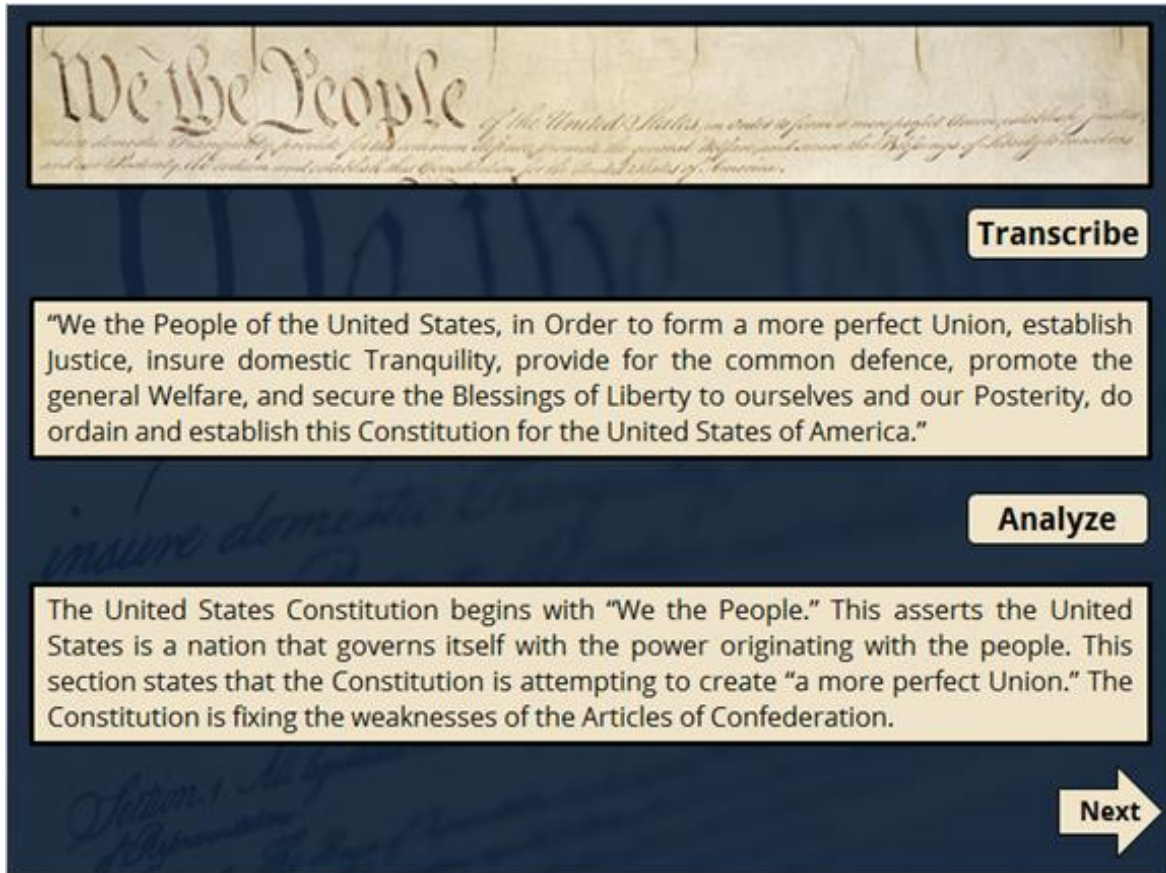


The United States Constitution is a four page document that contains seven articles. Some articles are further divided into sections. In this interactivity, click **Transcribe** to view the text from each excerpt. Click **Analyze** to reveal a detailed explanation of each excerpt. Click **START** to begin.

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We the People



The image shows an interactive graphic with a dark blue background. At the top is a horizontal strip of the original handwritten text from the Constitution, starting with "We the People". Below this strip are two main sections. The first section is titled "Transcribe" and contains a yellow box with the text: "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." The second section is titled "Analyze" and contains a yellow box with the text: "The United States Constitution begins with 'We the People.' This asserts the United States is a nation that governs itself with the power originating with the people. This section states that the Constitution is attempting to create 'a more perfect Union.' The Constitution is fixing the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation." At the bottom right of the graphic is a white arrow pointing right with the word "Next" inside it.

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Article I

The screenshot shows a digital interface for Article I of the US Constitution. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Article I". Below this is a "Transcribe" button. The main content area displays the text: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." To the right of this text is an "Analyze" button. Below the text is a summary box that reads: "Article I Section I documents how the legislative branch will be divided. The legislative branch of government will consist of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives." At the bottom of the interface are "Back" and "Next" navigation buttons.

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Article I Section II

Article 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen."

Transcribe

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Analyze

Article I Section II explains how delegates will be elected to the House of Representatives.

Back **Next**

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Article I Section II

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

Transcribe

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Analyze

Article I Section II documents the Three-Fifths Compromise. Three-fifths of a state's population would be included in its total population count.

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Article I Section III

Article I Section III explains how delegates will be elected to the Senate.

“The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.”

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Article II Section I

Article II.

Transcribe

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector."

Analyze

Article II Section I details the requirements for the election of a president through the Electoral College.

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Article III

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"The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office."

Analyze

Article III Section I documents the creation of a judicial system and the Supreme Court.

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Article IV

This Constitution and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

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Article IV states that federal law is supreme, but states have considerable leeway to govern themselves.

Back **Exit**

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