

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES



The United States Constitution was written in 1787. Its purpose was to set up a form of government for the new country made up of the former British colonies. The document is made of three different parts.

Preamble

The Preamble is the introduction to the Constitution. It sets the goals and purposes of the government. It says:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

Seven Articles on Government Structure

Article 1:

The Legislative Branch makes the laws.

Article 2:

The Executive Branch carries out the laws.

Article 3:

The Judicial Branch decides the fairness of laws.

Article 4:

States come together equally to form the union.

Article 5:

Amending the Constitution is possible.

Article 6:

The Constitution is the highest law of the land.

Article 7:

There is a process to make the Constitution legal.

Amendments

There are two sets of amendments to the Constitution:

Amendments 1-10:

The first ten amendments are called the **Bill of Rights**. These list the rights of the people. These rights are guaranteed and need to be protected. They were all approved in 1791.

Amendments 11-27:

The rest of the amendments are **changes and additions** to the Constitution. Article 5 explains how these changes can be made. The first of these was approved in 1795 and the most recent was approved in 1992.