

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
SS.5.CG.3.4 <i>Describe the process for amending the U.S. Constitution.</i>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students will explain why the U.S. Constitution includes the amendment process. ■ Students will identify amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd Grade & 4th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS.7.CG.2.3 • SS.7.CG.3.5

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year. • This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.5.CG.1.4 and SS.5.CG.2.3 as they address specific amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK
<p>→ What to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Describe and explain can mean: write, connect, define, or detail ◆ Identify can mean: name, match, connect, or list ◆ The U.S. Constitution outlines the amendment process in Article V ◆ Changes (amendments) to the U.S. Constitution must go through a two part process (proposal and ratification) before becoming permanent ◆ The U.S. Constitution has 27 amendments (last one ratified in 1992) ◆ The first 10 amendments (Bill of Rights) were ratified all at once in 1791 ◆ The amendment process was included to help ensure the success of the nation under the U.S. Constitution ◆ The framers admitted to the U.S. Constitution being an imperfect document, but the amendment process they established guaranteed constitutional changes would be deliberative and the document would not be changed for superficial reasons

- ◆ Clarity for which amendments to address in benchmark clarification #2 may be found in SS.5.CG.1.4 and SS.5.CG.2.3
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ The definition of amend/amendment
 - ◆ The amendment process outlined in the U.S. Constitution
 - ◆ The reason for an amendment process
 - ◆ Amendments listed in the U.S. Constitution
- Examples:
 - ◆ Purpose:
 - Amendments change the U.S. Constitution
 - The amendment process allows for the U.S. Constitution to reflect societal changes when a large majority of “We the People” deem necessary
 - ◆ Process:
 - Step 1: Proposal
 - An amendment is proposed by a two-thirds vote in Congress (House of Representatives and Senate) or by a national convention made up of two thirds of the states
 - Step 2: Ratification
 - The amendment must then be ratified by either three fourths of the state legislatures or by a state convention of three fourths of the states
 - ◆ Amendments:
 - 1st-10th: Bill of Rights, 1791
 - 11th: set limits on when a state can be sued, 1795
 - 12th: revised election procedures for president and vice president, 1804
 - 13th: abolished slavery, 1865
 - 14th: defined citizenship, due process, and equal protection, 1868
 - 15th: gave all men right to vote (regardless of color or previous enslavement), 1870
 - 16th: federal income tax, 1913
 - 17th: revised election of senators, 1913
 - 18th: prohibition of alcohol, 1919
 - 19th: women gained right to vote, 1920
 - 20th: revised terms of office for Congress and president, 1933
 - 21st: repealed 18th amendment, 1933
 - 22nd: limited president to a max of two terms, 1951
 - 23rd: Washington, D.C. granted representatives in Electoral College, 1961
 - 24th: repealed poll tax in order to vote, 1964
 - 25th: defined presidential succession, 1967
 - 26th: national voting age moved to 18, 1971
 - 27th: revised congressional salary changes, 1992

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on amending the U.S. Constitution:

1. [FJCC Background Knowledge: Amendment Process](#)

2. [U.S. Senate: Amending the U.S. Constitution](#)
3. [Amendment Process Graphic](#)
4. [National Archives: Constitutional Amendment Process](#)

Information on the amendments:

1. [Constitution Center: Amendments of the U.S. Constitution](#)
2. [White House: Constitution](#)