

Six Big Ideas in the Constitution

Activity 1, Handout 1 Answer Key: Outlining the Text

Count the words in each article and calculate the percentage of the whole it represents to determine how much of the text was dedicated to each structure or power.

Section of the Constitution	Number of Words	Percentage (of 4379 words)	Main Subject, Structure, or Power Addressed in the Article
Preamble	52	1	We the people... form a more perfect Union
Article I	2268	52	The Legislative Branch
Article II	1025	23	The Executive Branch
Article III	377	8	The Judicial Branch
Article IV	330	8	The States
Article V	145	3	Amending the Constitution
Article VI	156	4	The Constitution is the Supreme Law
Article VII	26	1	Ratification

Mapping the Constitution

Represent the percentages from the table above in a visual form. Using different colors for each of the Articles and the Preamble, color in the squares to represent the percentage of the whole Constitution that is dedicated to each article. Each square represents 1% of the document (round up or down as necessary).

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.
61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.
71.	72.	73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.
81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.	88.	89.	90.
91.	92.	93.	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.	99.	100.

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Activity 4: Analyzing Primary Sources to Relate the Six Big Ideas to History Answer Key

These are suggested answers. Additional matches could be correct. The strength of an answer depends on the evidence cited by the students to support it.

Title	NAID	Big Idea
Senate Revisions to House Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, 09/09/1789	3535588	Limited Government
Act of August 6, 1965 (Voting Rights Act of 1965), which enforced the 15th amendment to the Constitution, 08/06/1965	299909	Republicanism
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, as Introduced, S.J. Res. 189, 08/04/1964	2127364	Separation of Powers
Selection from President Andrew Jackson's Veto of the Bank Recharter Bill, 07/10/1832	306427	Checks and Balances
Henry Clay's Resolutions on the Removal of Deposits from the Bank of the United States, 12/23/1833	2127306	Checks and Balances
Letter from Mrs. E. Jackson in Favor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 03/08/1964	2173239	Popular Sovereignty
Senate joint resolution declaring admission of Missouri into the Union, 02/26/1821	306501	Republicanism
Joint Resolution Proposing the Twenty-First Amendment to the United States Constitution, 12/5/1932	596379	Separation of Powers
Certified Copies of the Official Correspondence by and between His Excellency, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Hon. John Sparks, Governor of Nevada, 12/1907	295933	Federalism
Attempted Override of President Richard Nixon's Veto of S. 518, an Act to Abolish the Offices of the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 5/1973	2127368	Checks and Balances
Petition to Congress from Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joselyn Gage, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, ca. 01/1873	306687	Popular Sovereignty
Joint Resolution Proposing the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 05/13/1912	1408966	Federalism
Petition from the Union Fire Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in Support of the Crittenden Compromise, ca. 1861	306495	Popular Sovereignty
Map of the United States Including Western Territories, 12/1848	2127339	Federalism
Tally of the 1824 Electoral College Vote, 02/09/1824	306207	Republicanism