

What do you believe the purpose of the government should be?

(Use this page to make notes about the ideas your group has.)



Governments also protect our rights and freedoms. They abide by a set of rules written in a special document, like the Constitution. This document outlines our rights, such as freedom of speech and the right to be treated fairly. So, the government acts like a guardian, making sure our individual rights are respected.

Governments are trying to keep us safe, make things fair, and provide the things we need. The government is working to provide its citizens with happy and healthy lives. If the government is based on a strong constitution and being run by people who are following the constitution, the hope is that the community will become a good place for everyone to thrive.

**What rights and freedoms are important to you? What are you thankful our country allows you to do?**

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**Now that you have read, make a list of what you believe a government should do.**


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where can all of these words be found?

establish

justice

insure

*union*

defense

domestic

*general*

common

provide

posterity

*promote*

secure

welfare

*liberty*

blessings

ordain

tranquility

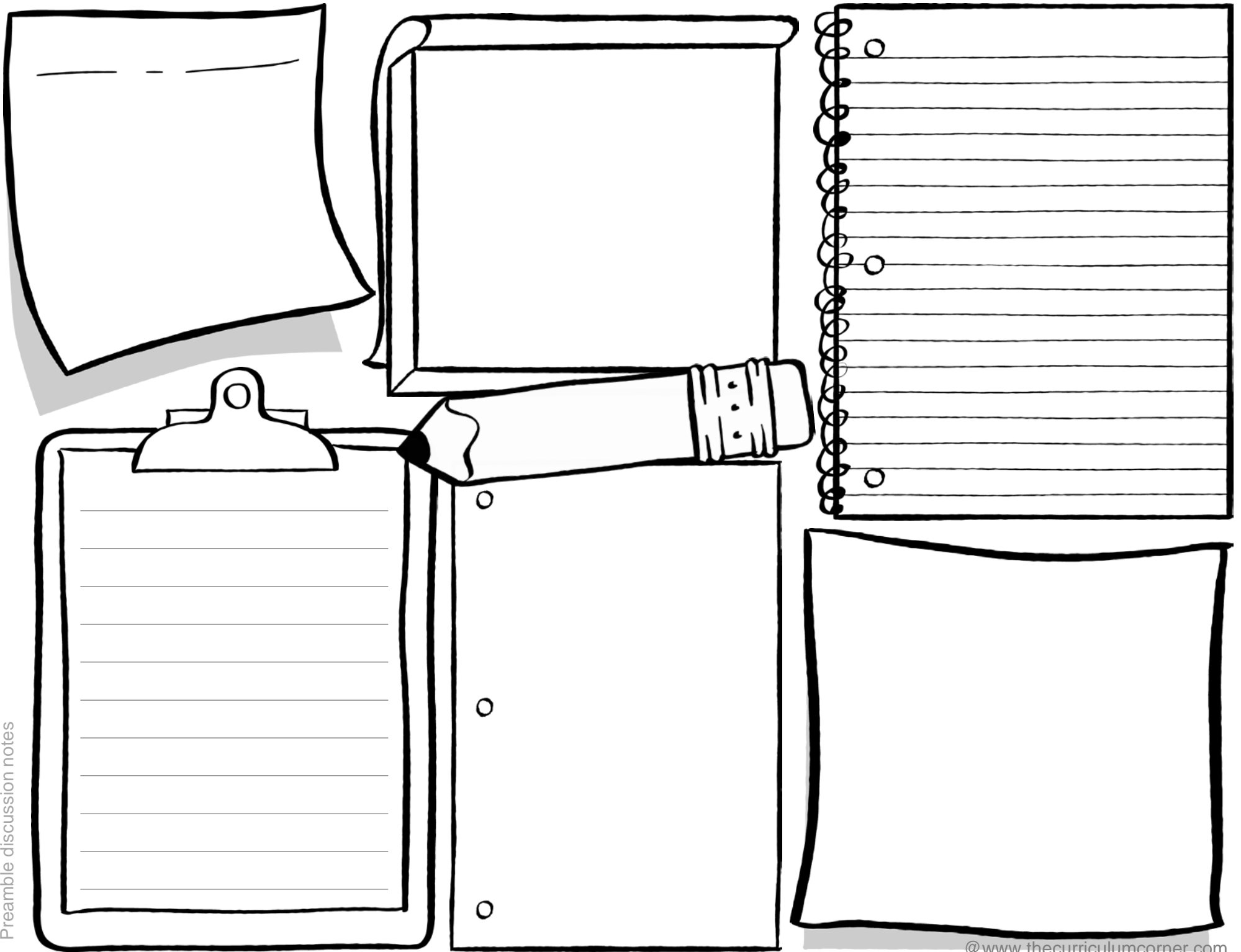
During our discussion in class, make notes about what each section of the preamble means.

Form a More Perfect Union	Establish Justice	Insure Domestic Tranquility
Provide for Common Defence	Promote General Welfare	Secure the Blessings of Liberty

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Preamble**

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.



Name:

**Think about it:** How well do you think the U.S. government is upholding the principles and purpose stated in the preamble of the constitution?

(Your response should be written using complete sentences.)

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Name:

**Think about it:** How well do you think the U.S. government is upholding the principles and purpose stated in the preamble of the constitution?

(Your response should be written using complete sentences.)

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# **constitutional government**

A system where the powers and limits of the government are defined by a written constitution.

# **rule of law**

Everyone, including the government, must follow the laws supported by the constitution.

# due process

The fair treatment of individuals under the law. It guarantees that everyone has a fair and impartial legal process.

# popular sovereignty

Government based on the consent of the people. Citizens have the ultimate say in making decisions through voting.

# republicanism

# representative government

A form of government in which citizens choose their representatives and leaders through free elections.

A system where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Instead of making every decision themselves, people choose individuals to represent their views and interests.

# rights to life

A form of government in which citizens choose their representatives and leaders through free elections.

# liberty and prosperity

A system where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Instead of making every decision themselves, people choose individuals to represent their views and interests.

# **freedom of conscience of religion**

Every person has the right to have or adopt a religion

# **checks and balances**

A system where each branch of government has some control over the other branches. This helps prevent one branch from becoming too powerful.

# shared powers

Some powers are given to more than one branch of government.

# separated powers

Different branches of government have specific jobs and responsibilities.

# **federalism**

A system of government where power is shared between a central (or national) government and smaller (state or regional) governments.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

word or phrase	meaning	thoughts shared in class or examples	visualization

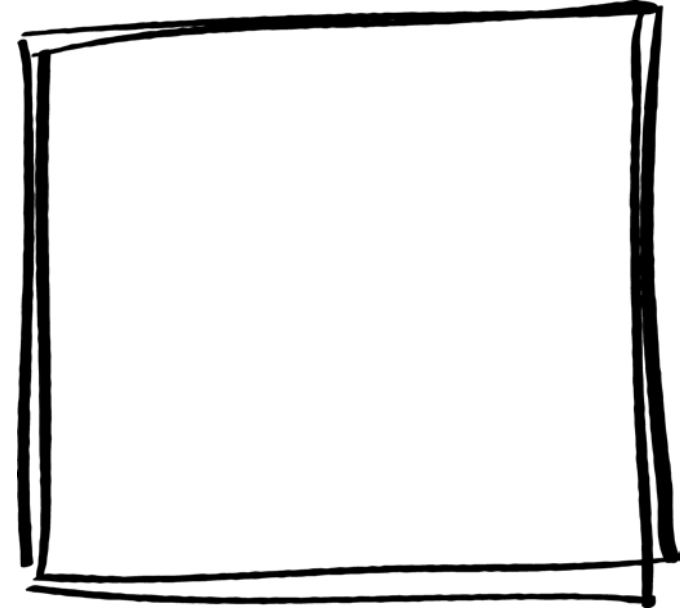


For each paragraph:

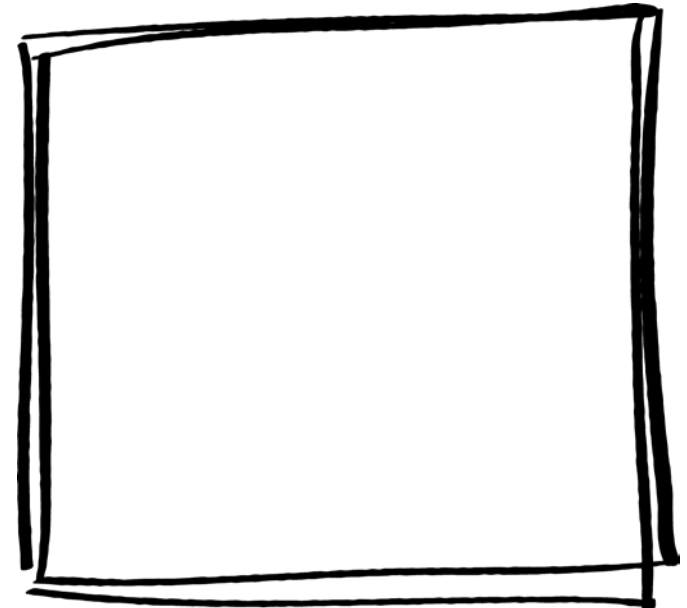
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write the topic at the top.
2. Circle three or four words that you believe should be bold vocabulary words.
3. What is the most important part to know when we are discussing how our current government evolved?

The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, was an agreement that changed the way kings and people in England worked together. This document was created in response to King John's overreaching power. It said even the king had to follow certain rules, setting the early ideas for how a government should be. Although not a full constitution, it talked about different things, like how widows should be treated and rules for fishing, showing the concerns of the people at that time. The Magna Carta also had a clause about creating a committee of barons to make sure the king followed the rules.



In 1628, the Petition of Right was written. It was another important paper in England. This one also talked about rules, especially that the king couldn't do certain things without asking first. It came up because people were worried about things like soldiers living in their houses and the king making laws that could hurt them. The Petition of Right talked about real issues that people faced during the time of King Charles I. Additionally, it highlighted the importance of not punishing people without a fair trial, which meant following a proper legal process.

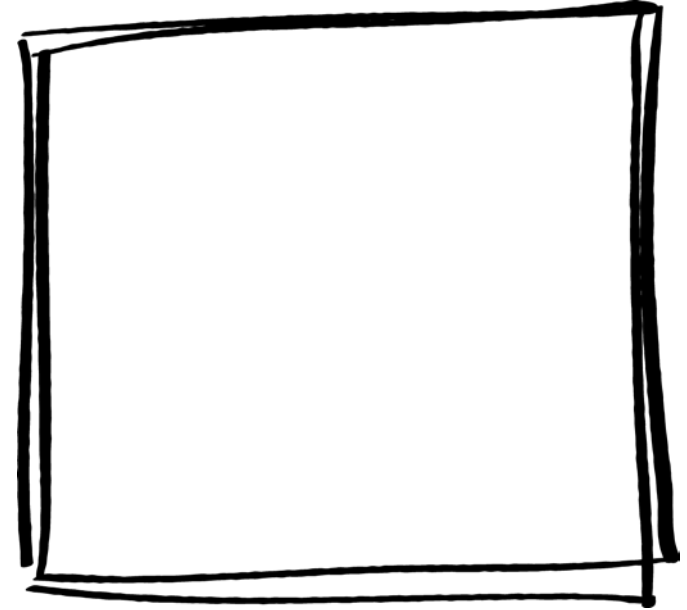


For each paragraph:

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The English Bill of Rights, written in 1689, is like a set of rules that shaped how England's government works today. It took ideas from the Magna Carta and the Petition of Right. Besides rules for the government, it also talked about religious issues of the time. It said that only Protestants could have weapons and be in charge, not Catholics. This was a way to deal with the religious tensions happening then. Notably, the English Bill of Rights also ensured that elections for Parliament would be free and fair.



What are your thoughts on the English Bill of Rights? Share your reaction and feelings to what you read.

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For each paragraph:

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In ancient Rome, they had something called Roman democracy during the Roman Republic. It was a mix of different ideas where people could vote for leaders, and those leaders made decisions for everyone. It was kind of like how we choose our leaders today. But back then, they had issues like fights between different groups of people, like the plebians and the patricians. Interestingly, in the Roman Republic, citizens were divided into classes based on wealth, and each class had different levels of political power.

In ancient Greece, in a city called Athens around 5th century BCE, they had a way of making decisions directly with the citizens. It was a bit different from today because everyone had a say, not just the leaders. The Athenians also had a system where they could vote to send away people they thought were a problem. These ideas helped shape how people think about governments today. Additionally, Athens had a unique form of public speaking called rhetoric, which played a significant role in their democratic processes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read and follow these directions carefully. You will need to label the chart and then complete the chart with the information we have learned. If you do not know an answer, it is ok to look it up. Create a chart that talks about the three branches of our government. You will include the name of each branch of government at the top of your chart. The column on the left will have a spot that describes the job, the people included in the branch, and the place where their decisions are made.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The branches of government have duties beyond making laws, enforcing laws, and evaluating laws. Can you find at least five other jobs each branch has? Make a list below.

Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

+ \_\_\_\_/20

## Civics Test

1. What is the main purpose of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution?
  - A. To outline the laws of the United States
  - B. To declare independence from Britain
  - C. To establish the goals and purposes of the government
  - D. To list the grievances against the King of England
2. What does constitutional government mean?
  - A. A government run by the strongest leader
  - B. A government where laws are based on a constitution
  - C. A government without any written laws or principles
  - D. A government elected by the people every year
3. The rule of law ensures that:
  - A. Laws are written by the supreme ruler
  - B. Every citizen has the right to make laws
  - C. Laws apply equally to all citizens, including leaders
  - D. Laws are secret and not disclosed to the public
4. What is due process?
  - A. The process of electing a president
  - B. The right to fair treatment through the judicial system
  - C. A law that is passed by due date
  - D. The process of making a new law
5. What does checks and balances refer to?
  - A. A way to check the bank balance of citizens
  - B. A system that allows each branch of government to limit the powers of the others
  - C. The process of checking and balancing the national budget
  - D. A law that requires checks to be balanced at the bank
6. Popular sovereignty means:
  - A. The government controls the population
  - B. People have the power to govern themselves
  - C. The most popular laws are chosen
  - D. Leaders are elected by popular vote

7. Federalism is a form of government in which:
- A. Power is divided between a federal government and state governments
  - B. All power is concentrated in the federal government
  - C. States have all the power, and there is no central government
  - D. The government operates without any states or provinces
8. The legislative branch of the U.S. government is responsible for:
- A. Enforcing laws
  - B. Making laws
  - C. Interpreting laws
  - D. Electing officials
9. The executive branch is headed by:
- A. The Supreme Court
  - B. The President
  - C. Congress
  - D. State Governors
10. The judicial branch is responsible for:
- A. Making laws
  - B. Enforcing laws
  - C. Interpreting and reviewing laws
  - D. Electing officials
11. Separation of powers is important because:
- A. It ensures that no branch of government becomes too powerful
  - B. It allows for quicker decision-making
  - C. It consolidates power in one branch for efficiency
  - D. It eliminates the need for checks and balances
12. An example of checks and balances is:
- A. The President vetoing a bill passed by Congress
  - B. Congress making laws without review
  - C. Judges running for office
  - D. The President making laws
13. The First Amendment guarantees:
- A. The right to bear arms
  - B. Freedom of speech and religion
  - C. The right to a speedy trial
  - D. Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures

14. The Tenth Amendment deals with:
- A. Federalism by stating powers not given to the federal government belong to the states
  - B. The establishment of the judiciary
  - C. Presidential powers
  - D. The rights of accused persons
15. How do state and national governments affect everyday lives?
- A. By controlling all job opportunities
  - B. Through regulations and services like education and transportation
  - C. By determining what citizens can purchase
  - D. By limiting travel between states
16. Which branch of government can declare war?
- A. Executive
  - B. Legislative
  - C. Judicial
  - D. All of the above
17. What is the main role of the Supreme Court?
- A. To enforce federal laws
  - B. To amend the Constitution
  - C. To interpret the Constitution and review laws
  - D. To elect the President and Vice President
18. Which principle is demonstrated when the President vetoes a bill passed by Congress?
- A. Popular sovereignty
  - B. Checks and balances
  - C. Federalism
  - D. Rule of law
19. Which of the following best describes the Bill of Rights?
- A. A list of duties and responsibilities of American citizens
  - B. The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing specific freedoms
  - C. A document signed by the President outlining new laws
  - D. The entire U.S. Constitution
20. What is the purpose of the Electoral College?
- A. To educate future politicians
  - B. To select the President and Vice President of the United States
  - C. To oversee the education system in America
  - D. To elect members of Congress



What is the purpose of the preamble?

What is a constitutional government?

The rule of law means that...

What does due process mean?

The constitution was written to include checks and balances. What does this mean?

What is popular sovereignty?

What does separation of powers mean?

What is the job of the electoral college?

Explain federalism

Name 4 rights and 4 responsibilities citizens in our country have.

rights	responsibilities

Which branch of government is responsible for the following?  
Write: L for legislative, E for executive, and J for judicial.

	commander in chief of the armed forces
	can veto laws
	applies the law to individual cases
	can declare war
	leader of the federal government
	drafts laws
	prints money
	decides if laws violate the constitution