



Mini Fact:
The Constitution was handwritten on only four pages!

Separation of powers

The men who wrote our Constitution knew they wanted a strong national government.

The government under the Articles of Confederation just did not work. The delegates feared that giving too much power to any one person or group could be dangerous.

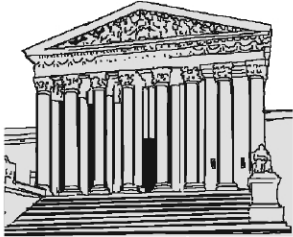
The delegates decided that the powers of government should be divided. This idea is called **separation of powers**.



The Legislative Branch is Congress. The House of Representatives and Senate make laws, impose taxes and borrow money.



The Executive Branch is headed by the president. The president has many jobs. One is to see that the laws are carried out.



The Judicial Branch is headed by the Supreme Court, which decides whether laws passed by Congress are in keeping with the Constitution.

Compromise

How was the new Congress to be set up? How many members could each state send to Congress? These were big questions. It was a debate between big and small states.

Different ideas

Virginia was a big state. The Virginians suggested that the number of members be decided by the number of people who lived in the state.

A smaller state, New Jersey, suggested that all states have the same number of members.

The Great Compromise

Connecticut came up with what is called “The Great Compromise.”

This plan set up two lawmaking groups, or “houses,” as they are called. The **House of Representatives** was to be based on the number of people living in each state.

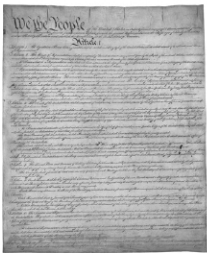
The other house, the **Senate**, was to have the same number of members (two) from each state. Laws had to be passed by both houses.

Article I

The Constitution is divided into seven **articles**. Each article has different **sections**.

Article I deals with the legislative branch.

In 2005, Betty Debnam, creator of The Mini Page, worked closely with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to create a nine-part series of issues about our U.S. Constitution. This is the third issue in the series, which will continue once a month until Election Day 2020.



Section 1

The Legislative Branch will consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2

A member of the House of Representatives:

- must be at least 25 years old.
- must be a citizen of the United States for at least seven years.
- is elected for a two-year term.

Section 3

A member of the Senate:

- must be at least 30 years old.
- must be a citizen of the United States for at least nine years.
- is elected for a six-year term.

Section 4

This section addresses when elections are to be held and when the Congress shall meet.

Section 5

Deals with the important ways Congress does its business. Each house of Congress can set its own rules. Each house is to keep a journal, or official record.

Section 6

Members of Congress are paid by the U.S. government. They cannot serve any other government while in Congress.

Section 7

Explains how a bill becomes a law.

Section 8

Lists the enumerated powers of Congress.

Section 9

Lists the limitations on the powers of Congress.

Resources

On the Web:

- [archives.gov/founding-docs](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs)

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the separation of powers are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ARTICLE, COMPROMISE, CONGRESS, DELEGATES, EXECUTIVE, GOVERNMENT, HOUSE, JUDICIAL, LEGISLATIVE, MEMBER, NATIONAL, POWER, REPRESENTATIVES, SENATE, SEPARATION, STATES.	H O U S E E S I M O R P M O C J L A N O I T A N R E B M E M S E V I T A T N E S E R P E R T T D D Q D E L E G A T E S E A A B E V I T A L S I G E L L T N G O V E R N M E N T M X C E E Q S E P A R A T I O N K I S S E S S E R G N O C E C Q T L A I C I D U J E R E W O P R B B T T N E X E C U T I V E A
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Cook's Corner

Cauliflower Mash

You'll need:

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into florets
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons butter

- 1/3 cup light sour cream
- 1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese



What to do:

1. Boil cauliflower in chicken broth for 5 minutes.
2. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Uncover and continue cooking until liquid is reduced and cauliflower is tender. If necessary, pour off 1/4 to 1/2 cup liquid. Remove pan from heat.
4. Add butter, sour cream and cheese. Beat on low with a hand mixer until mixture is the consistency of mashed potatoes (it may be slightly chunky). Serve hot. Serves 4.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. Disney duck (6) _____
2. break into small pieces (7) _____
3. symptom of a cold (6) _____
4. China or Turkey (7) _____
5. opposite of white (5) _____
6. painter or sculptor (6) _____
7. site for a school play (10) _____

CK	IST	NT	TTER
ITOR	SNE	IUM	ALD
DON	ART	AUD	COU
EZE	RY	SHA	BLA

Answers: Donald, Donald, shatter, sneeze, country, country, artist, auditorium.



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Mini Jokes



Sara: Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
Sam: She was stuffed!

Eco Note



Farmers in parts of Pakistan are battling the worst locust plague in nearly 30 years after heavy rains from earlier tropical cyclones provided perfect conditions for unprecedented breeding and explosive population growth of the insects. Desert locust swarms have spread eastward from eastern Africa, from around the Red Sea to Iran, Pakistan and into parts of India.

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For later:

Look through your newspaper for articles about both houses of Congress and what they are working on.

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