The Constitution of Texas

- Articles, Sections, Amendments
- Bill of Rights
- Qualifications of State Officials
- Qualifications of Voters

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. **TEXAS CONSTITUTION QUESTIONS:**
   Students will answer the questions about the state Constitution on the “Texas Constitution Questions” Student Activity Sheet.

   **NOTE:** Activities 2 through 6 require students to refer to the Texas Constitution, which can be found at this website:
   
   http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/
   
   Information on Amendments is included in the Texas Almanac.

2. **TEXAS CONSTITUTION CHART:** Using the list of articles and sections, students will complete the Texas Constitution Chart on the Student Activity Sheet. This may be done individually, in small groups, or as a whole-class activity.

3. **TEXAS BILL OF RIGHTS:** Students will match the “Right” to the “Section” on the Texas Bill of Rights Student Activity Sheet.

4. **ARTICLES OF TEXAS CONSTITUTION:**
   Students will identify the topic discussed in each Article on the Articles of the Texas Constitution Student Activity Sheet.

5. **STATE OFFICIALS:** Students will list the qualifications and terms for each official on the State Officials Student Activity Sheet.
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6. TEXAS VOTERS: Students will determine the qualifications to be a voter in the state of Texas on the Texas Voters Student Activity Sheet.

7. TEXAS BINGO: Each student will receive a Texas Bingo game card on the Student Activity Sheet, which is the last page of this lesson.
   - Each student will select terms from the Texas Bingo Word List and write one term in each square on his or her game card. Students may not use a term more than once.
   - The teacher will copy the Texas Bingo Questions, cut them into strips, and place them in a basket or box.
   - Individual students will select and read a question. The teacher will call on a volunteer to answer each question.
   - If a student has that answer on his or her game card, he or she will cover it in a predetermined manner, such as with small pieces of paper cut into shapes or stickers.
   - The first student to get “bingo” wins the game. “Bingo” can be a line (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) or a “full house.”
   - The teacher may want to have small prizes for the winners.

NOTE: The teacher should be able to lead more than one Texas Bingo game in a class period.
Texas Constitution Questions

A. When was the Texas Constitution adopted? _______________________

B. As of today, how many amendments have been added to the Texas Constitution? _________________________________

C. Explain the two steps necessary to amend the Texas Constitution.
   1. __________________________________________________________
   2. __________________________________________________________

D. How can an amendment be submitted during a special session of the Legislature? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

E. Can the governor reject an amendment? __________________________

F. Who makes the final decision of approving proposed amendments? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

G. In what year was the greatest number of amendments submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature? _________________________________

H. List the years in which only one amendment was submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature. _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
# Texas Constitution Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ARTICLE</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILD SUPPORT</td>
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<td>MONUMENTS</td>
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<td>HANDICAPPED PERSONS REHABILITATION PROGRAMS</td>
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<td>PRAIRIE VIEW A&amp;M UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHMENT</td>
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<td>BINGO AUTHORIZATION OF GAMES</td>
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<td>SPECIAL SESSION CONVENED BY GOVERNOR</td>
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<td>WITNESSES COUNSEL</td>
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<td>RAILROAD COMMISSION COMPOSITION</td>
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<td>FOREST SERVICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND JURY, QUALIFICATIONS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Texas Bill of Rights

Match the “Section” of Article I of the Texas Constitution with the “Right” guaranteed in the Texas Bill of Rights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>RIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 3</td>
<td>A. Speech and Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 6</td>
<td>B. Trial by Jury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 8</td>
<td>C. Speedy Trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 9</td>
<td>D. Quartering Soldiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 10</td>
<td>E. Keep and Bear Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 11</td>
<td>F. Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 15</td>
<td>G. Assembly and Petition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 18</td>
<td>H. Bail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 23</td>
<td>I. Unreasonable Seizures and Searches</td>
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<td>Section 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 27</td>
<td>J. Suspension of Laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 30</td>
<td>K. Imprisonment for Debt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>L. Equal Rights</td>
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<td>M. Crime Victims</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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STUDENT ACTIVITY

Articles of the Texas Constitution

Identify the topic discussed in each Article of the Texas Constitution.

Article I ____________________________________________________________

Article II __________________________________________________________

Article III __________________________________________________________

Article IV __________________________________________________________

Article V __________________________________________________________

Article VI __________________________________________________________

Article VII _________________________________________________________

Article VIII _______________________________________________________

Article IX _________________________________________________________

Article X __________________________________________________________

Article XI _________________________________________________________

Article XII _________________________________________________________

Article XIII _______________________________________________________

Article XIV ________________________________________________________

Article XV _________________________________________________________

Article XVI _________________________________________________________

Article XVII _________________________________________________________
State Officials

Using the Articles and Section(s) indicated, identify the qualifications that must be met to hold these elected state offices and indicate the term of office for each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Article and Section(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas Senator</td>
<td>Article III, Section 3, Section 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Representative</td>
<td>Article III, Section 4, Section 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Article IV, Section 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justices of the Texas Supreme Court</td>
<td>Article V, Section 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judges of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals</td>
<td>Article V, Section 4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Texas Voters

Using Article VI, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 3a, determine the qualifications for Texas voters.

**AGE**

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

**CITIZENSHIP**

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

**RESIDENCY**

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

**REGISTRATION**

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

**ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, HOW MAY SOMEONE BE DISQUALIFIED FROM VOTING IN TEXAS?**

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
Texas Bingo Questions

The legislative branch _____________ the laws.
The executive branch _____________ the laws.
The judicial branch _____________ the laws.
The top official of the executive branch is the _____________________.
The leader of the Texas House of Representatives is the _____________________.
The leader of the Texas Senate is the _____________________.
Highest court in Texas for a criminal case: ___________ ___________ ___________
Highest court in Texas for a civil case is the ___________ ___________ ___________.
The capital city of Texas is _____________________.
The current governor of Texas is _____________________.
The State _____________________. meets every two years.
The term of each State Representative is ___________ years.
The term of each State __________________ is four years.
The term of the Governor is ___________ years.
A ___________ Representative must be at least twenty-one years old.
A State Senator must be at least ___________ years old.
The Governor must be at least ___________ years old.
Texas Bingo Questions

The Texas House is composed of ___________ _______________ ______________ members.

The Texas Senate is composed of _________________________ members.

The Governor is the only person allowed to call a ____________________ session.

The Governor signs bills into ________________.

The State Seal is kept by the ___________________ ______________.

The head of the legal department for the State of Texas is the ______________ ____________.

The Texas Constitution contains _______________________ Articles.

Article I discusses the Texas ____________ ____ _______________.

Changes to the Texas Constituption are called _____________________________.

The introductory statement to the Texas Constitution is the _________________.

The chief financial officer for the State of Texas is the ____________________.

All amendments must be approved by the ________________.

The voting age is _________________.

The right to vote is called ____________________.

The right to trial by ____________ is guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

The name of the building in which the State Legislature meets is the _________________.

Each state has two Senators in the United States _________________.

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Texas Bingo Questions

The senior Senator from the State of Texas is ______________  __________________.

The junior Senator from the State of Texas is ___________  ___________.

The Lieutenant Governor of Texas is __________________  ___________________.

The majority party in Texas is the ________________________________.

The minority party in Texas is the _________________________.

Texas has ______________________ Representatives in the United States House of Representatives.

When one asks a higher court to review the decision in a case, it is called an _________________.

When the Governor rejects a bill given to him to sign, it is called a _________________.

A veto may be overridden by a ______________________ vote of each house of the State Legislature.

In order to vote, one must ____________________________.

State judges are _____________________ to their positions.

The right to bear _______________ is reflected by the concealed weapons law.

Levying war against Texas would be considered _________________.

A quorum of the Texas House of Representatives is _________  ____________________.

A quorum of the Texas Senate is ________________________________.
Texas Bingo Word List

Makes
Enforces
Interprets
Governor
Speaker
Lieutenant Governor
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
Texas Supreme Court
  Austin
  Rick Perry
Legislature
  Two
  Senator
  Four
  State
  Twenty-Six
  Thirty
One Hundred Fifty
Thirty-One
Special
Law
Secretary of State
Attorney General
Seventeen
Bill of Rights

Amendments
Preamble
Comptroller
Voters
Eighteen
Suffrage
Jury
Capitol
Congress
John Cornyn
Ted Cruz
David Dewhurst
Republican
Democrat
Thirty-Two
Appeal
Veto
Two-Thirds
Register
Elected
Arms
Treason
One Hundred Twenty-One
# Student Activity

## Lesson 28 – The Constitution of Texas

**Texas Bingo**

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