

# Lesson 2

# American Government

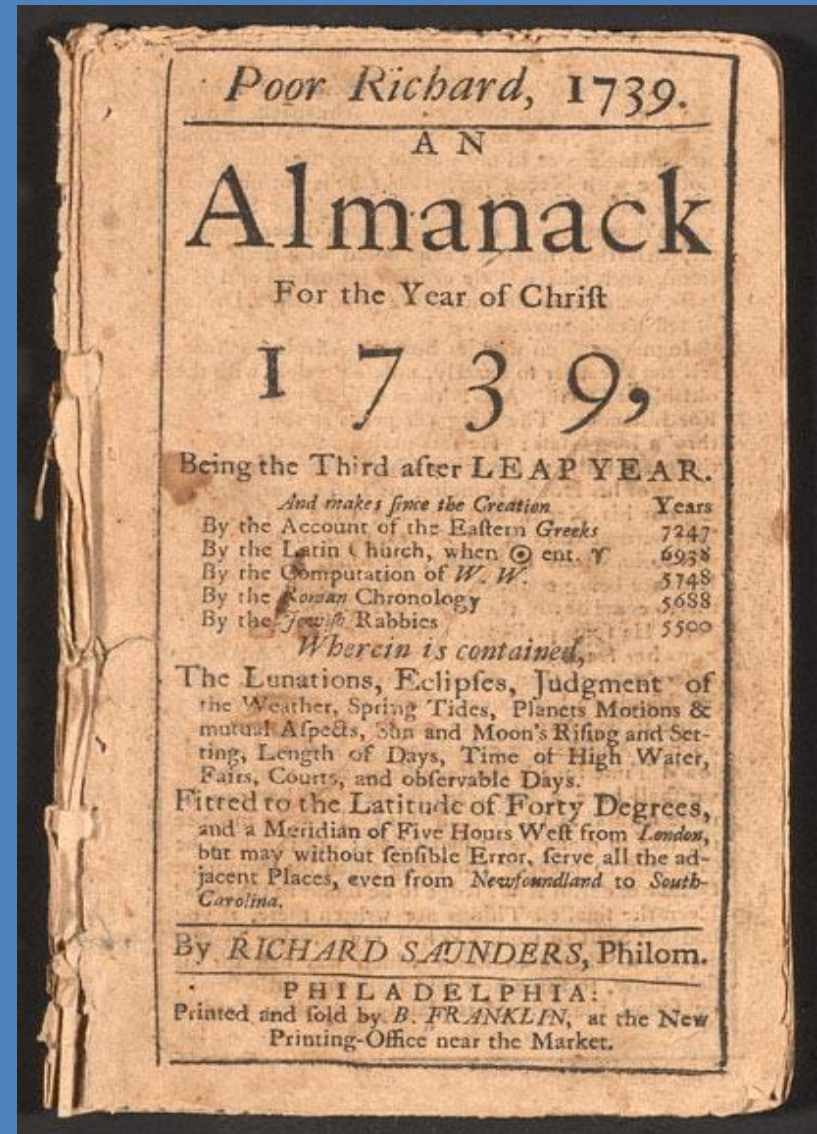
## Principles of American Democracy

Questions: 65, 66, 68, 1, 2, 13, 14, 41, 42, 67,  
69, 70, 4, 7, 5, 6, 10, 3, 11, 12, 55

# The Constitutional Convention (1787)



# Benjamin Franklin



Question  
**65**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

# What happened at the Constitutional Convention?



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

## Question #65



★ **The Constitution  
was written.**

★ **The Founding  
Fathers wrote the  
Constitution.**

*“Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States,”*  
by **Howard Chandler Christy**. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USA7-34630.

Question  
**66**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

**When was the Constitution  
written?**



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and Immigration  
Services**

## Question #66



**1787**

**Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA,  
where the Constitution was signed in 1787.**

Question  
**68**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?



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## Question #68



- ★ U.S. diplomat
- ★ oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- ★ first Postmaster General of the United States

- ★ writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”
- ★ started the first free libraries

“Franklin’s Return to Philadelphia, 1785,”  
by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-9906.

# The U.S. Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land

- sets up the government
- defines the government
- protects the basic rights of Americans

Question

**1**



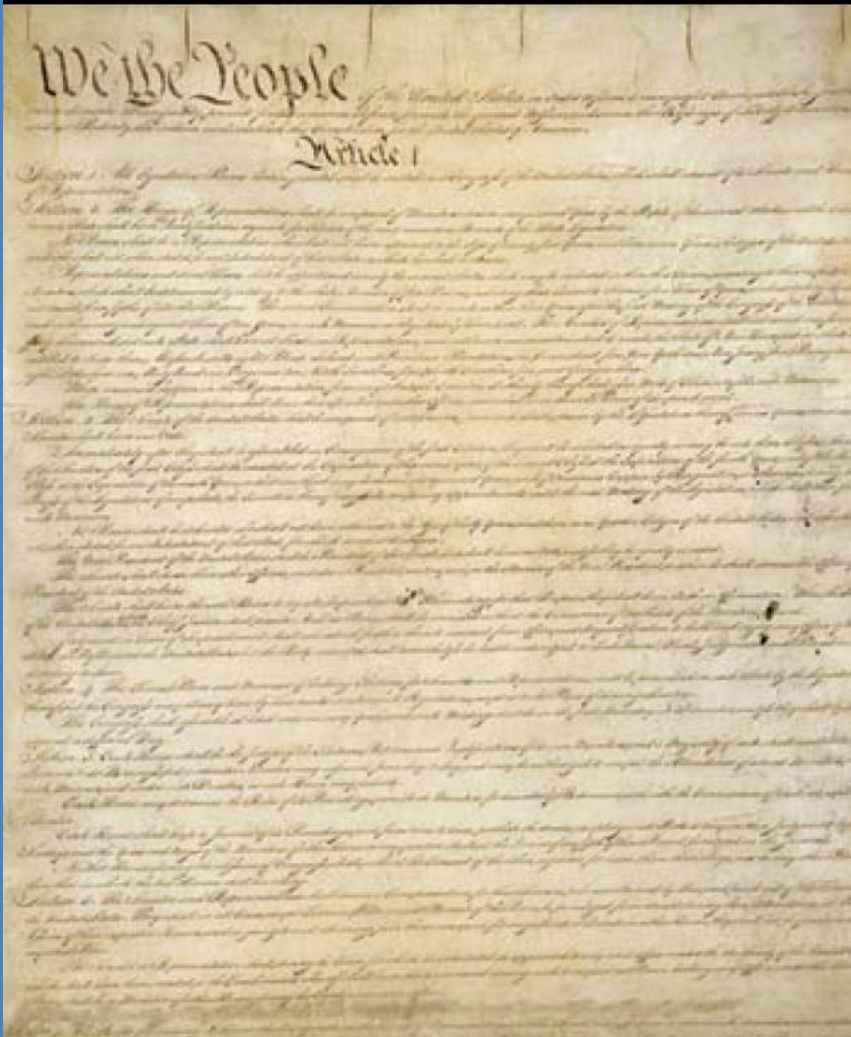
**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**What is the supreme law of the land?**



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

## Question #1



# the Constitution

**The Constitution of the United States.**  
Courtesy of the National Archives.

Question

2



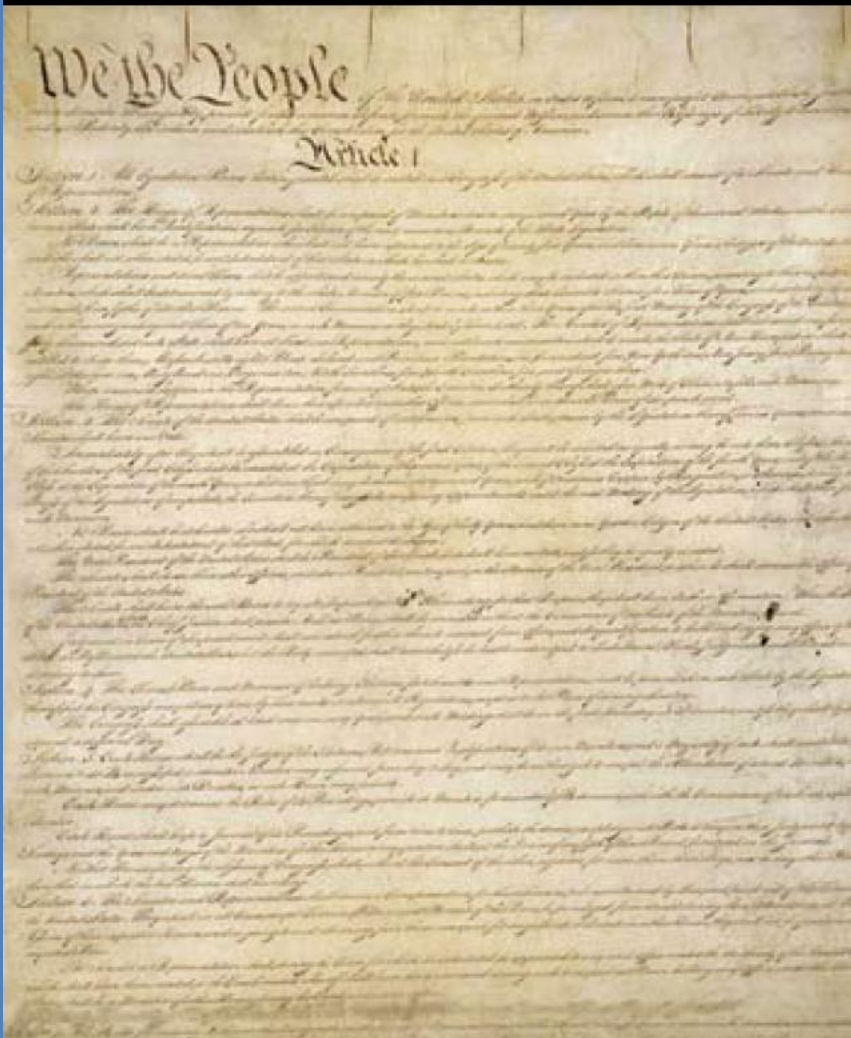
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**What does the  
Constitution do?**



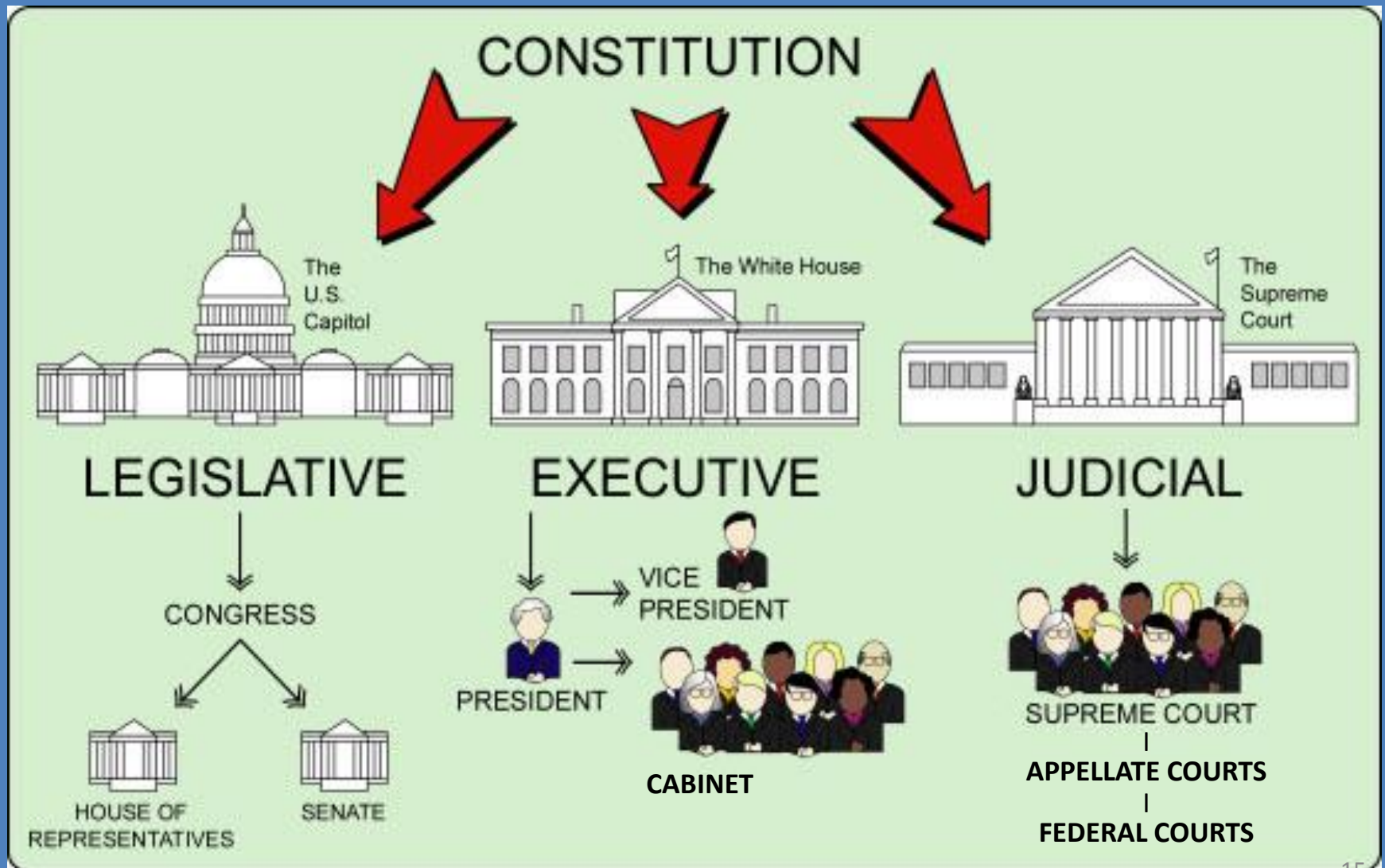
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Services**

## Question #2



- ★ sets up the government
- ★ defines the government
- ★ protects basic rights of Americans

# The Constitution Defines the Government and its Powers



Question

**13**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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Name one branch or part of  
the government.\*



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Services**



## Question #13

- ★ **Congress**
- ★ **legislative**
- ★ **President**
- ★ **executive**
- ★ **the courts**
- ★ **judicial**

**The U.S. Capitol (legislative branch)  
and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial  
branch) buildings in Washington, D.C.**



# Separation of Powers / Checks and Balances

**PRESIDENT  
(Executive Branch)**

Can veto a bill  
Can reject a treaty  
signed by the president

Can declare an executive  
action unconstitutional  
Appoints federal judges

Can declare a law  
unconstitutional



Approves federal judges

**CONGRESS  
(Legislative Branch)**

**THE COURTS  
(Judicial Branch)**

Question

**14**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?**



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## Question #14



- ★ **checks and balances**
- ★ **separation of powers**

# A Federal System

## Separate and Shared Powers

### Federal

- print money
- declare war
- create an army
- make treaties
  
- establish post offices
- regulate trade between states and countries
- establish rules for naturalization
- issue patents

### Shared

- collect taxes
- borrow money
- build roads
- establish courts
- provide for the general welfare
- charter banks and corporations
- make and enforce laws

### State

- provide schooling and education
- provide protection
- provide safety
- give a driver's license
- approve zoning & land use
  
- conduct elections
- establish local governments
- regulate trade within a state

# A Federal System

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- print money
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- provide schooling and education
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- approve zoning & land use
- conduct elections
- establish local governments
- regulate trade within a state

Question  
**41**



Civics Flash Cards  
for the Naturalization Test

**Under our Constitution,  
some powers belong to the  
federal government. What is  
one power of the federal  
government?**



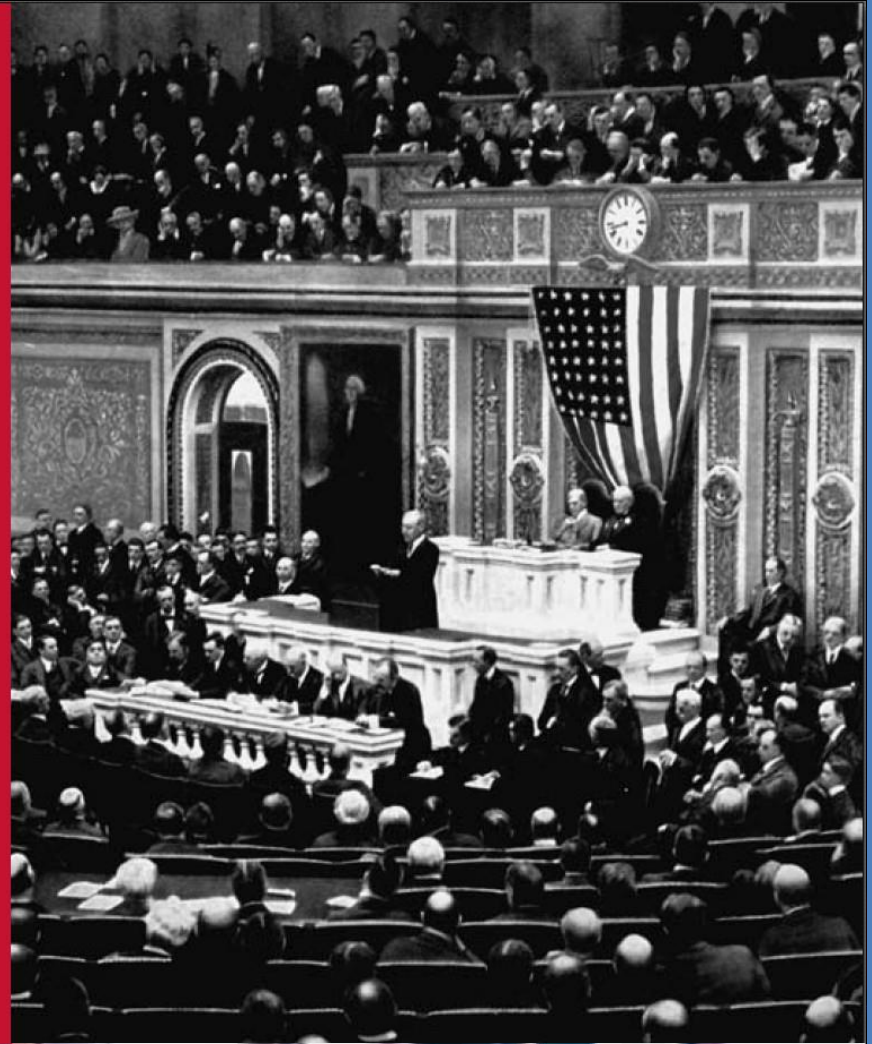
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Services

## Question #41

- ★ to print money
- ★ to declare war
- ★ to create an army
- ★ to make treaties

**President Woodrow Wilson asking  
Congress to declare war on Germany,  
April 2, 1917.**

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-10297.





Question

42



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

**Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?**



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## Question #42

- ★ provide schooling and education
- ★ provide protection (police)
- ★ provide safety (fire departments)
- ★ give a driver's license
- ★ approve zoning and land use



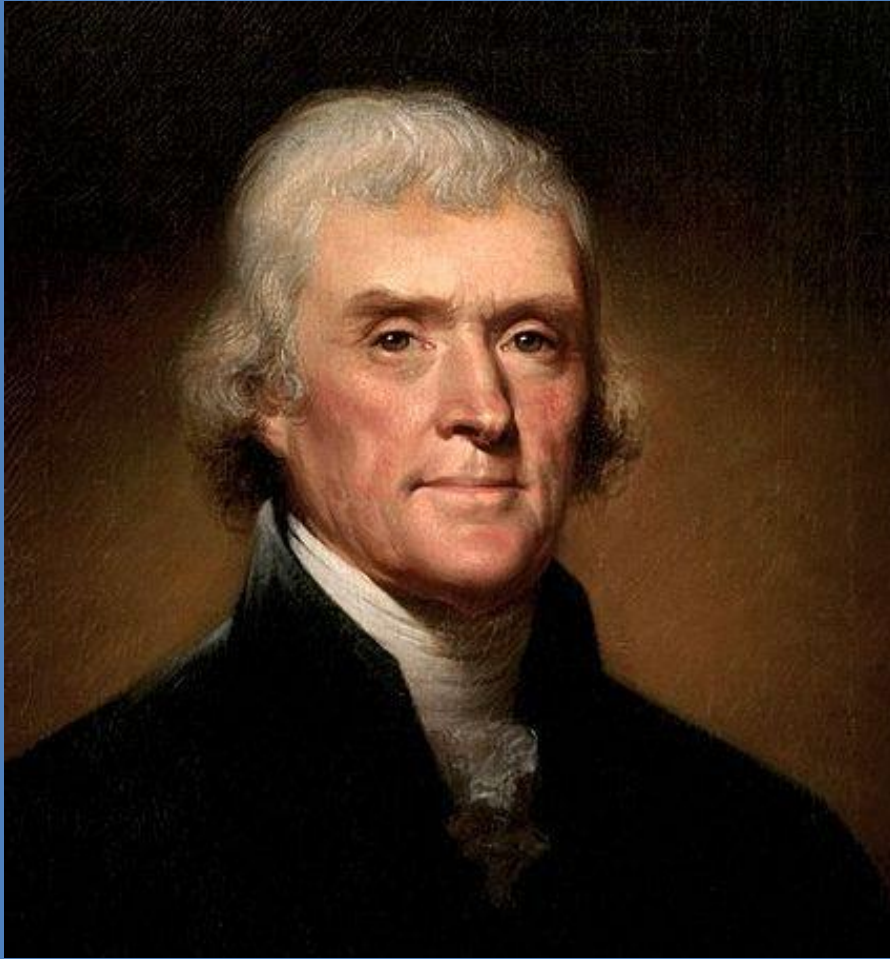
# James Madison - Federalist

## A United Nation Requires a Strong Government



# Thomas Jefferson - Anti-Federalist

## Limited Government; Guaranteed “Natural Rights”



### The Bill of Rights

*Ratified December 15, 1791*

#### Article I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

#### Article II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

#### Article III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

#### Article IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

#### Article V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be

deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

#### Article VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

#### Article VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

#### Article VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

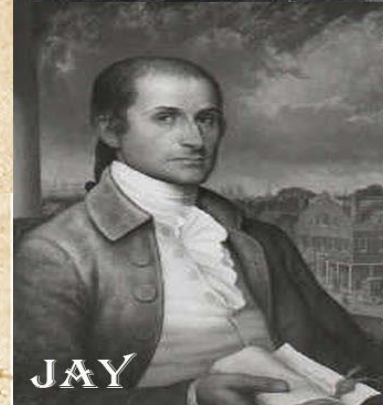
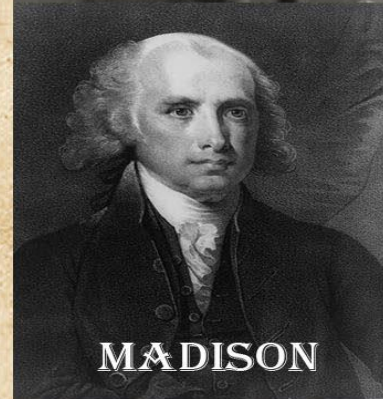
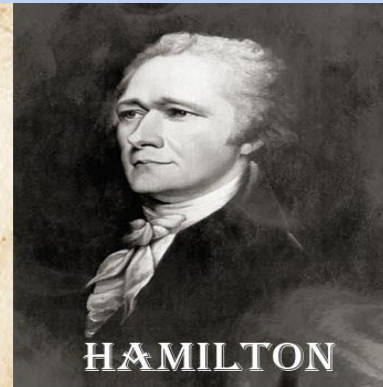
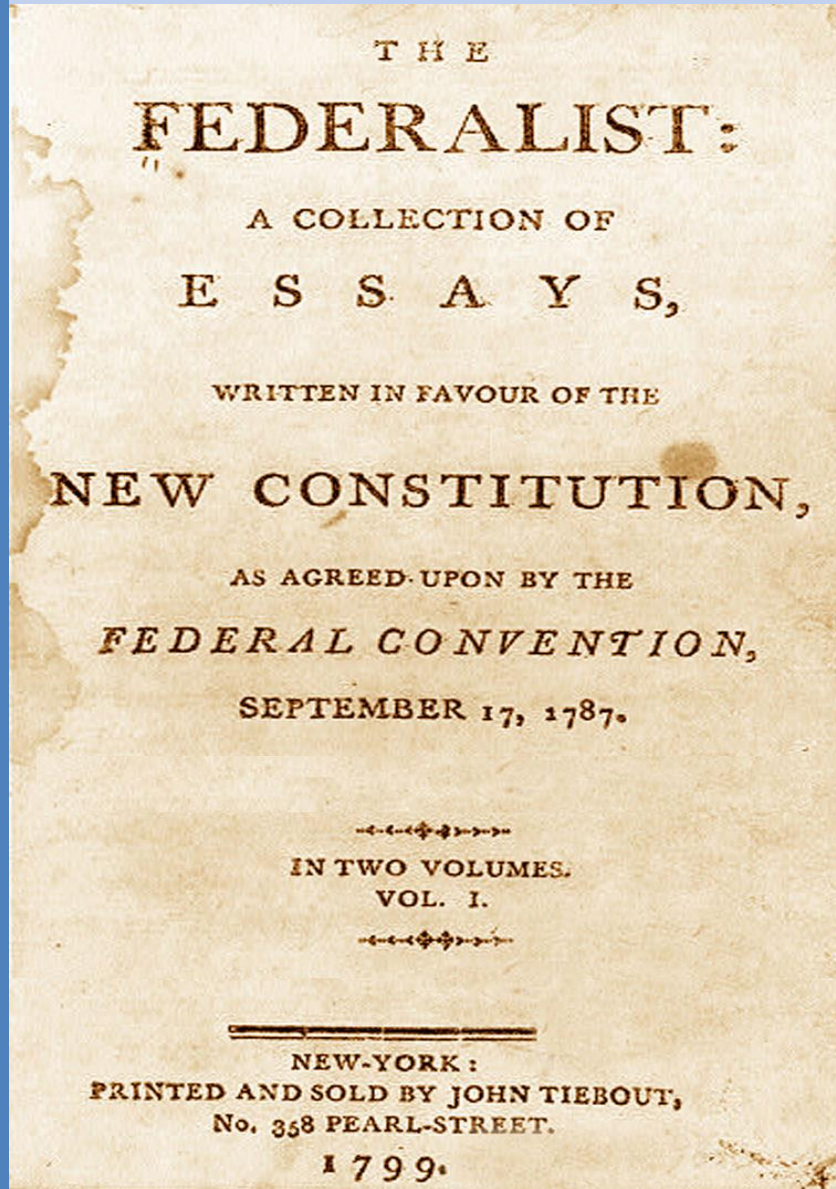
#### Article IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

#### Article X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

# The Federalist Papers



Question  
**67**



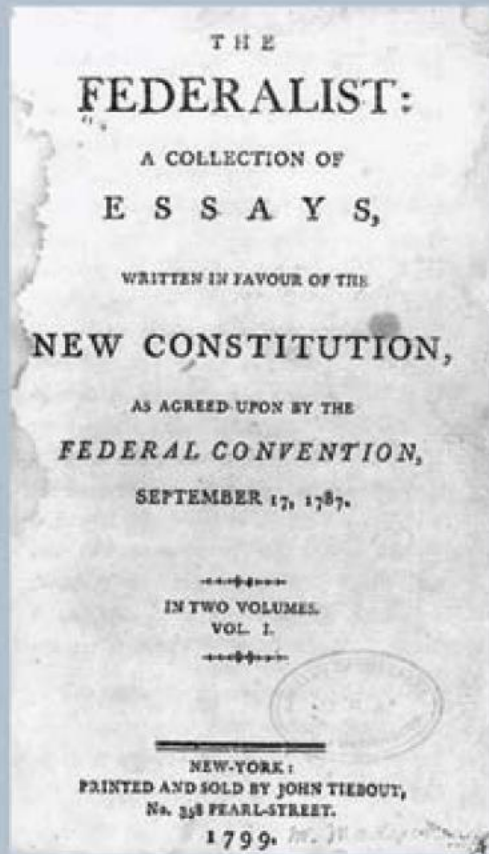
**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**



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and Immigration  
Services**

## Question #67



- ★ (James) Madison
- ★ (Alexander) Hamilton
- ★ (John) Jay
- ★ Publius

Title page of The Federalist,  
vol. 1, 1799.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-70508.

# George Washington

First President of the United States





Question  
**69**



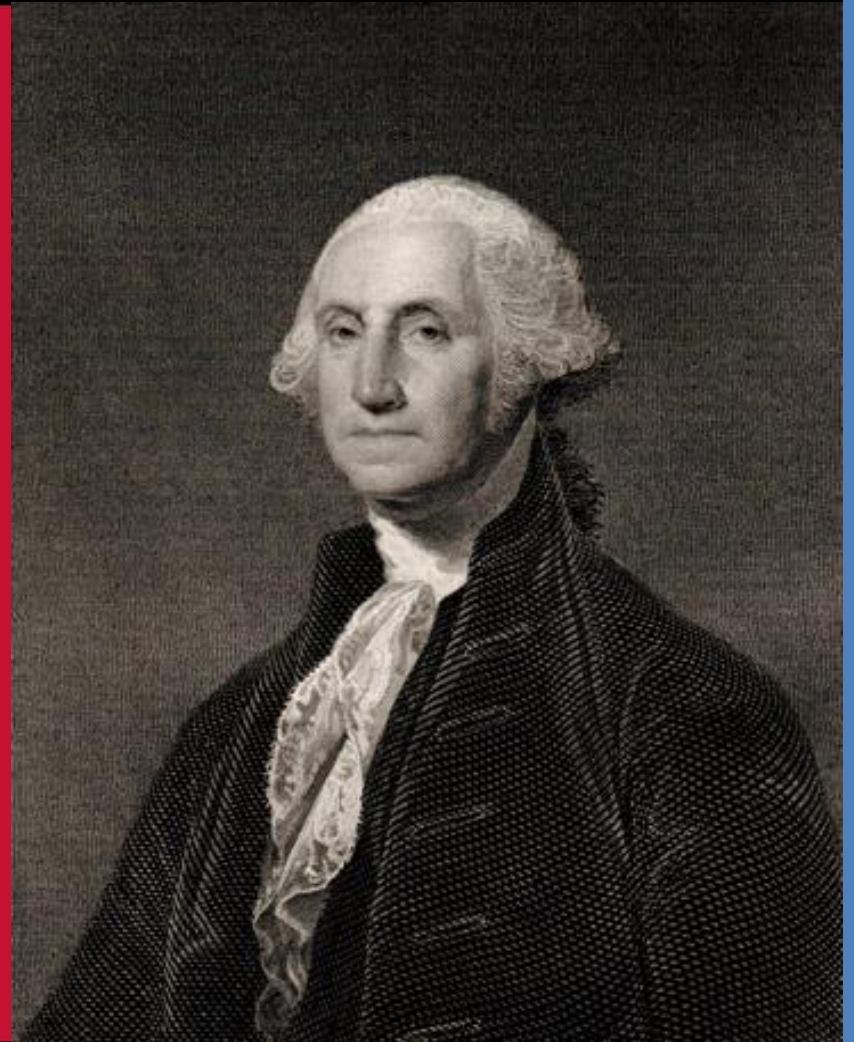
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**Who is the “Father of Our Country”?**



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Services**

**(George)  
Washington**



Question  
**70**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

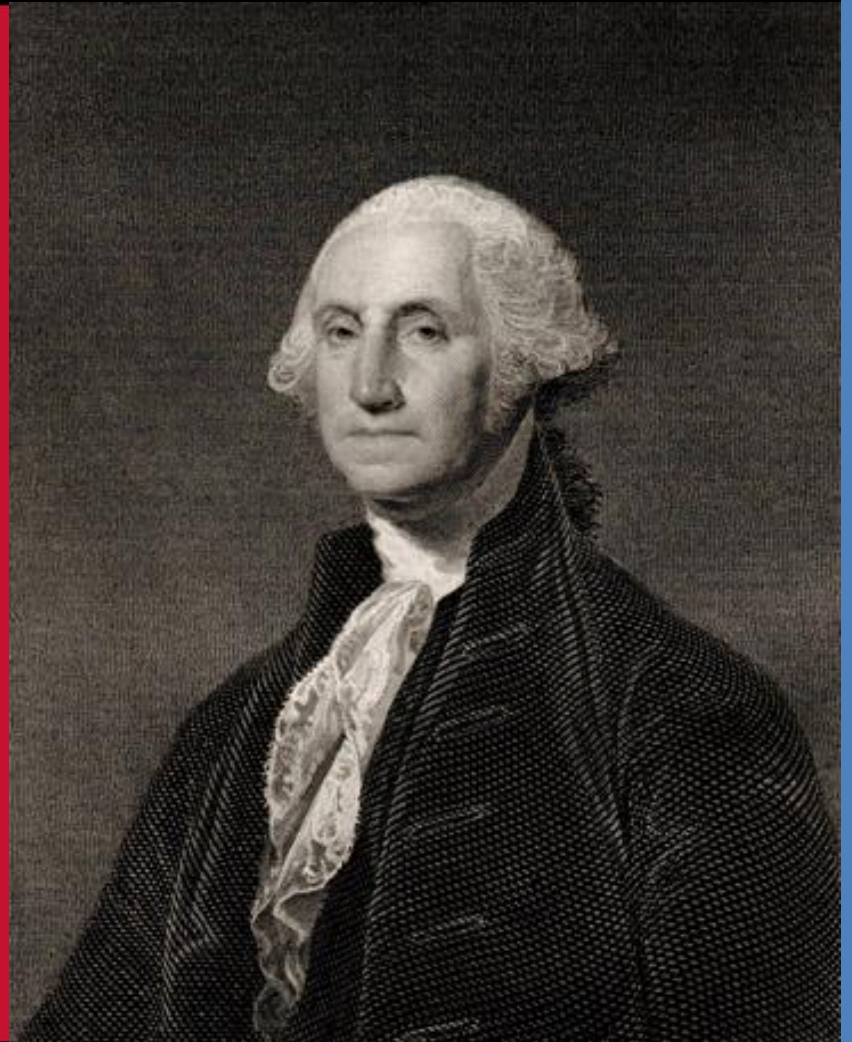
**Who was the first  
President?\***



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and Immigration  
Services**

## Question #70

**(George)  
Washington**



# 27 Constitutional Amendments

**1st - 10th Amendments:** The Bill of Rights, 1791.

**11th Amendment:** Grants states immunity from outside lawsuits, 1795.

**12th Amendment:** Requires distinct votes for President and Vice President, 1804.

**13th Amendment:** Abolished slavery, 1865.

**14th Amendment:** Defines citizenship; includes clauses on due process and equal protection, 1868.

**15th Amendment:** Grants voting rights to male citizens of all races, 1870.

**16th Amendment:** Authorizes a federal income tax, 1913.

**17th Amendment:** Allows direct Senatorial elections by a state, 1913.

**18th Amendment:** *Enacted prohibition, 1919.*

**19th Amendment:** Grants voting rights to women, 1920.

**20th Amendment:** "Lame Duck Amendment;" reduces time between election and service of elected officials, 1933.

**21st Amendment:** Repealed the 18th Amendment, 1933.

**22nd Amendment:** Limits a president to two terms, 1951.

**23rd Amendment:** Granted the District of Columbia electoral votes, 1961.

**24th Amendment:** Prohibits poll taxes, 1964.

**25th Amendment:** Clarifies procedures regarding succession of President and Vice President upon death or inability to serve, 1967.

**26th Amendment:** Makes 18 the minimum legal voting age, 1971.

**27th Amendment:** Allows changes in Congressional salary only after a general election (first submitted in 1789) 1992.

Question  
**4**



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**What is an amendment?**



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## Question #4

- ★ a change (to the Constitution)
- ★ an addition (to the Constitution)

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

AMENDMENT 20  
ratified January 23, 1933)

*Section 1.* The terms of the President and  
shall end at noon on the 20th day of  
terms of Senators and Representatives  
day of January, of years in which such  
ended if this article had not been rat  
of their successors shall then begin.

*Section 2.* The Congress shall assemble  
every year, and such meeting shall

Question

7



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**How many amendments  
does the Constitution have?**



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**twenty-seven  
(27)**

**Portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton,  
seated, and Susan B. Anthony,  
standing, advocates for the rights  
of women to vote.**

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ61-791.



# The Constitution and Bill of Rights

## The Foundation of a Constitutional Democracy



## The Bill of Rights

Ratified December 15, 1791

### Article I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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Question

5



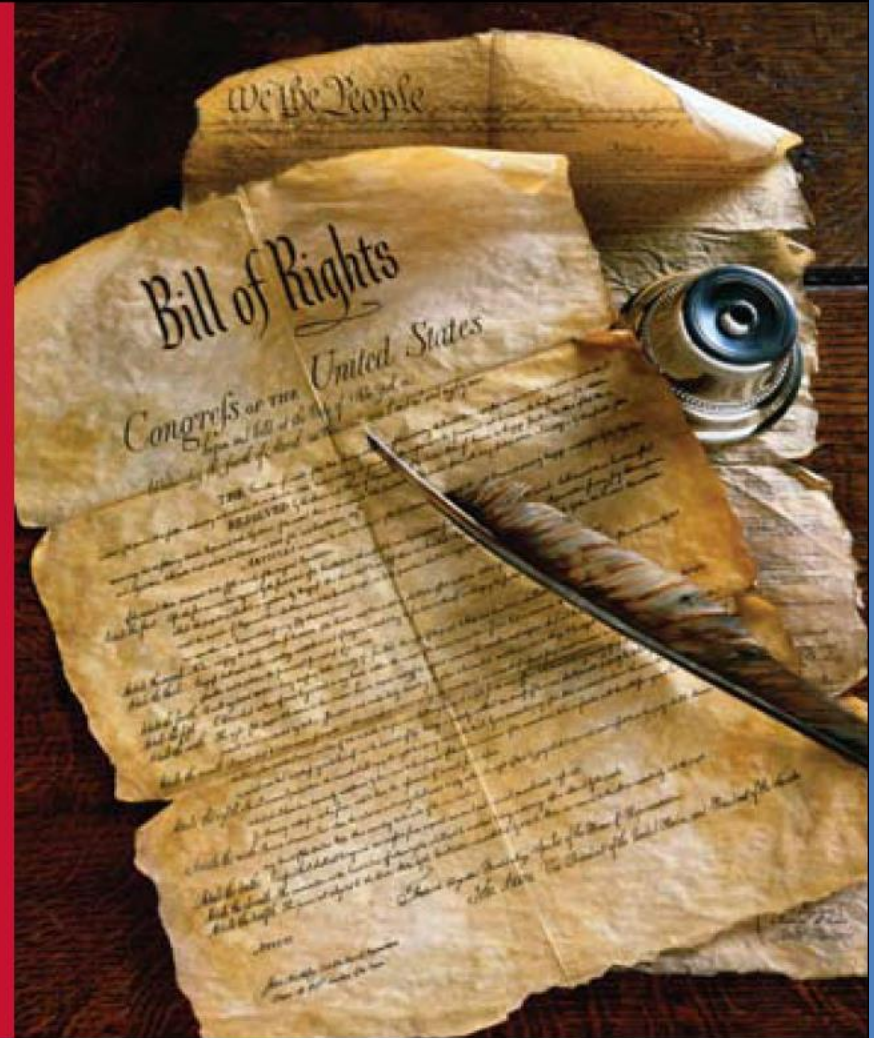
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**What do we call the first  
ten amendments to the  
Constitution?**



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# the Bill of Rights



# The First Amendment

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Question

6



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?\*



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## Question #6



- ★ speech
- ★ religion
- ★ assembly
- ★ press
- ★ petition the government

A newspaper stand in 1941.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF346-BN-001359-Q-C.

Question  
**10**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**What is freedom of religion?**



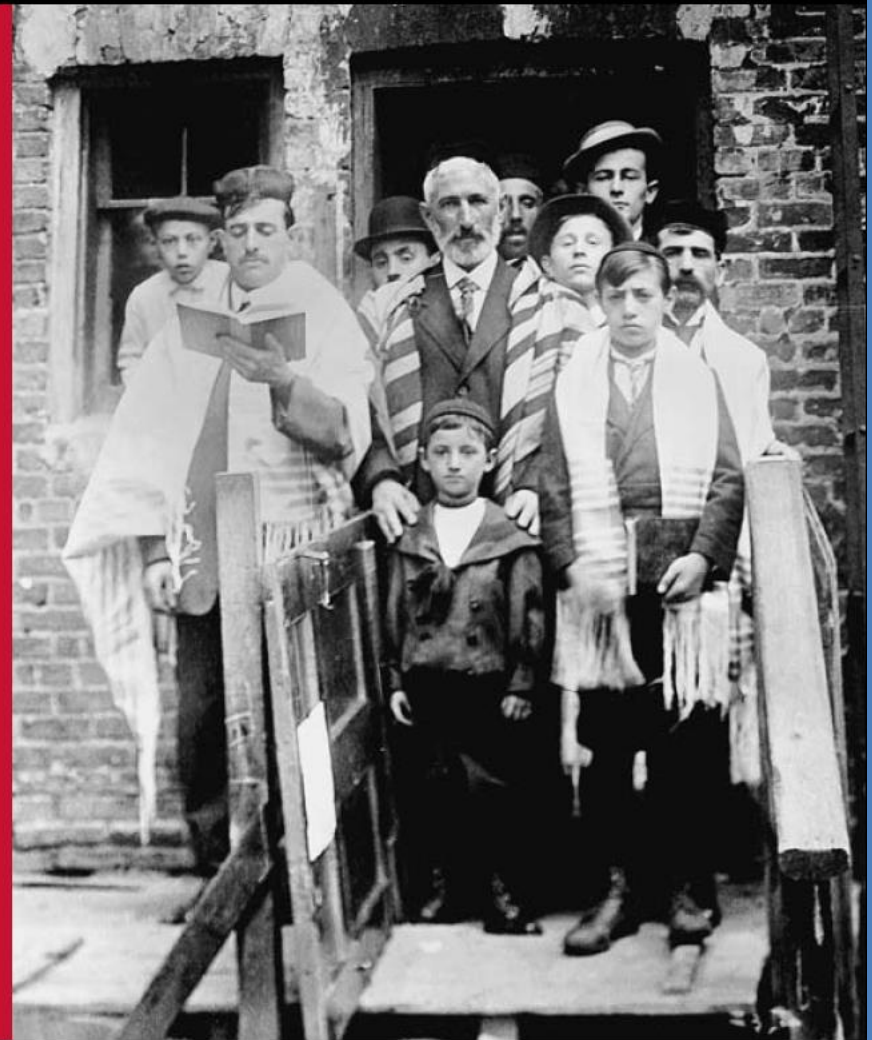
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and Immigration  
Services**



## Question #10

**You can practice  
any religion, or  
not practice a  
religion.**

**A synagogue on Yom  
Kippur, circa 1900.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,  
LC-DIG-ggbain-02316.**



# The Idea of Self-government



Question

3



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

**The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**



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## Question #3



**We the People**

**"We the People," the first three words  
of the preamble to the Constitution  
of the United States.**

Courtesy of the National Archives.

# Capitalist Economy / Market Economy



Question

**11**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

**What is the economic system  
in the United States?\***



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and Immigration  
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## Question #11



- ★ **capitalist economy**
- ★ **market economy**

# The Rule of Law

- **Everyone must follow the law**
- **No one is above the law**
- **Leaders must obey the law**
- **Government must obey the law**



Question  
**12**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
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**What is the “rule of law”?**



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## Question #12



- ★ **Everyone must follow the law.**
- ★ **Leaders must obey the law.**
- ★ **Government must obey the law.**
- ★ **No one is above the law.**

**The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.**

*Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.*

# Ways to Participate in Our Democracy

- **vote**
  - **join a political party**
  - **help with a campaign**
    - **join a civic group**
  - **join a community group**
- **give an elected official your opinion on an issue**
  - **call Senators and Representatives**
- **publicly support or oppose an issue or policy**
  - **run for office**
  - **write to a newspaper**

Question  
**55**



**Civics Flash Cards**  
for the Naturalization Test

What are two ways that  
Americans can participate  
in their democracy?



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## Question #55

- ★ **vote**
- ★ **join a political party**
- ★ **help with a campaign**
- ★ **join a civic group**
- ★ **join a community group**
- ★ **give an elected official your opinion on an issue**
- ★ **call Senators and Representatives**
- ★ **publicly support or oppose an issue or policy**
- ★ **run for office**
- ★ **write to a newspaper**