



The Constitution

Textbook Chapter 8 pages 164-181

The Chapter in Brief

Fill in the blanks to form a summary of Chapter 8 in AMERICA IS.

The Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States. It outlines the organization of the national _____ and establishes its limits and procedures. The Constitution assumes that political authority rests with the _____ and that all forms of government exercise _____ power. In an attempt to develop an effective national government and maintain local authority at the state level, Americans developed a system of _____. The Framers of the Constitution divided the powers of government among the _____, the _____, and the _____ branches. This division was called the _____ of _____. It allowed the Framers to set up a system of _____ and _____ by which one branch could restrain the authority of the other branches.

The function of the Congress is to _____ laws. Congress also votes on all _____ with foreign nations and on all presidential _____. The President has three major functions: the chief _____ of the national government, the chief _____ in foreign affairs, and the _____ of the armed forces. The President and Vice-President are elected by an indirect method known as the _____. The function of the Supreme Court is to _____ laws. Members of the Court maintain their office for a period of _____.

The powers specifically given to the federal government by the Constitution are known as _____ powers. Powers that are not stated directly but suggested are called _____ powers. If a power belongs only to the federal government, it is called an _____ power. Whatever powers are not given to the federal government are reserved to the _____ or to the _____.

The Framers provided the _____ process as a means of changing the Constitution to meet unexpected needs. Such a process can start either in the _____ or in one of the _____. The provisions of the Constitution also have been affected over the years by _____ decisions, _____ legislation, and _____ actions.