

Name _____ The Lasting Constitution

Essential Question: Why has the U.S. Constitution lasted for over 220 years?

Answer: The U.S. Constitution has proved to be a long-lasting plan for our government. This is because it has five important characteristics.

1. It is a _____.

Can be amended

Written in broad terms

Has an "elastic clause"

2. It is based on the idea of _____.

State Powers

Ex:

1. _____
2. _____

Federal Powers

Ex:

1. _____
2. _____

3. There is a system of _____ and _____.



Limiting the power of each branch

4. There is the _____.

Protection for citizen rights and freedoms

5. The _____ have _____ in the government.



Can vote for representatives



Can run for public office



Can suggest ideas for laws



Can take the gov't to court

Use the posters in the room to complete the sentences for these "Two Important Things:"

1. The important thing to remember about the **Declaration of Independence**

is that _____



Note: The colonists felt that the King and the Parliament in England were not treating them in the same way as other British citizens were treated. They thought that was unfair. They had asked, several times, for things to be changed - things like unfair taxes and the ways that trials were taking place. The King had ignored them and he was, in their opinion, abusing his power. There was nothing the colonists could do about it. They did not like the government of England any longer and decided to declare independence so they could start their own new government. Do you think they wanted another King? Doubtful! They wanted a totally new and different kind of government and they wanted rights for the common people!

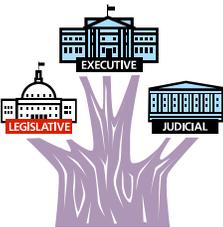
2. The important thing to remember about the **U.S. Constitution** is that

Now...read over this paragraph and try to fill in the blanks with words from the word bank that make sense. You can look at the other side of this page for some hints.

The important thing to remember about the **Separation of Powers**

is that it provides a _____ where one branch cannot become too _____ over the other _____ branches. This system, of _____ and balances, _____ the government from _____ its power.

powerful Constitution checks abusing system prevents two something



So, if one branch tries to do _____ that is not in the best interest of the People or is not allowed by the _____, another branch can stop them.