1. What is the Constitution of the United States?

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What does the Constitution do?

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What principles does it reflect?

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Why is it important to have a Constitution?

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2. . List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution.

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How do these purposes affect your family and community?

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3. List the three branches of the United States government.

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Explain:

a. The function of each branch of government

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b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches

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c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others

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d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.

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4. Discuss the importance of:

a. Declaration of Independence

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b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment

1st Amendment

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2nd Amendment

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3rd Amendment

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4th Amendment

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5th Amendment

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6th Amendment

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7th Amendment

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8th Amendment

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9th Amendment

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10th Amendment

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14th Amendment

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c. The traditional United States motto "E Pluribus Unum".

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5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Start date:: |  | End Date: |  |
| News Source: |  | | |

Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor

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Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.

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6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

Explain:

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| a. | Who the author was |  |
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| b. | What the historical context was |  |
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| c. | What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss |  |
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| d. | What the author said |  |
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| e. | Why the speech is important to the nation's history. |  |
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Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Sentence(s) You chose:

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Why it has significant meaning to you:

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7. Do TWO of the following:

⬜ a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

What did you visit/

Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.

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⬜ b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. What did you visit?

Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

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* c. Tour a federal facility. What did you tour?
* Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.

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⬜ d. Choose a national monument that interests you.

Monument chosen:

Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent’s permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument.  
Tell your counselor what you learned and explain why the monument is important to this country’s citizens.

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8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress.

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| Senator |  |
| Senator |  |
| Representative |  |

Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue

⬜ Show your letter, along with any response you might receive, to your counselor.

**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

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