

Lesson on The Bill of Rights and Amending the Constitution by Paul Dickler for FPRI

Grade Level:

High School

Time:

Two to four classroom periods.

Standards:

- National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: Thematic Strand Index:
<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands>
 - Standard #2: Time, Continuity and Change
 - Standard #6: Power, Authority and Governance
 - Standard #9: Global Connections
 - Standard #10 Civic Ideals and Practices
- U.S. History Standards: Era 3 1754-1820s
- Common Core State Standards for English Lang. Arts & Literacy in History/ Social Science, 6-12
 - Key Ideas and Details
 - RH/SS.2—determine and summarize central ideas and themes
 - RH/SS.3—analyze text related individuals, events or ideas
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
 - RH/SS.9—analyze and/or compare primary/secondary sources
 - Comprehension and Collaboration
 - SL.1—prepare and participate effectively in a range of conversations.
 - SL.2—integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
 - Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
 - SL.4—present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Objectives:

1. Analyze the process of amending the Constitution.
2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the amending process.
3. Analyze the extent to which an amendment could solve the problems for which it was addressed.

Procedures:

1. Ice Breaker/Anticipatory Set: Ask students to identify amendments to the Constitution of which they are aware. Place the list on a white board or flip chart. (15 minutes to 30 minutes)
2. For homework, have students read the 27 Amendments to the United States Constitution and read Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Students should take notes on Article V to prepare for class tomorrow.
3. (Day 2) Divide your class into pairs. Have each pair design a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Students must submit a copy of this amendment to the instructor at the start of the next class, dealing with this lesson. For each new proposed amendment, students must do the following in class and for homework:
 - I. Explain the need for the amendment.
 - II. Clarify the reasoning behind the wording of the Amendment.
 - III. Evaluate the likelihood of its passing and becoming a part of the U.S. Constitution. (Remember: there are four ways to ratify an amendment.)
4. (Day3/4) Have the pairs of students present their amendments to the class and engage the class in discussion about their proposals. The Instructor should record each proposed amendment and have the class vote on each.

This lesson may conclude in three classroom periods or it may take a fourth to delve into constitutional issues and wrap up.

Grading can be based on the student research, class presentations, and class discussions.

Lesson Information:

U.S. Constitution, Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

(National Archives.)

Congress of the United States
begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT 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 re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT VIII

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

AMENDMENT IX

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

AMENDMENT 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.

AMENDMENT XI

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

AMENDMENT XII

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

**Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

AMENDMENT XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

**Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XVI

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

AMENDMENT XVII

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

AMENDMENT XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XIX

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XX - Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

AMENDMENT XXI

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXII

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXIII

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXV

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

AMENDMENT XXVI

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

(Human Rights Library-- hrlibrary.umn.edu)

Synopsis of each ratified amendment

No.	Subject ^[7]	Ratification ^{[8][9]}		
		Submitted	Completed	Time span
<u>1st</u>	Prohibits Congress from making any law <u>respecting an establishment of religion</u> , impeding the <u>free exercise of religion</u> , abridging the <u>freedom of speech</u> , infringing on the <u>freedom of the press</u> , interfering with the <u>right to peaceably assemble</u> or prohibiting the <u>right to petition the government</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>2nd</u>	Protects the <u>right to keep and bear arms</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>3rd</u>	Places restrictions on the <u>quartering</u> of soldiers in private homes	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>4th</u>	Prohibits unreasonable <u>searches</u>	September	December 15,	2 years,

No.	Subject ^[7]	Ratification ^{[8][9]}		
		Submitted	Completed	Time span
	<u>and seizures</u> and sets out requirements for <u>search warrants</u> based on <u>probable cause</u>	25, 1789	1791	81 days
<u>5th</u>	Sets out rules for <u>indictment</u> by <u>grand jury</u> and <u>eminent domain</u> , protects the right to <u>due process</u> , and prohibits <u>self-incrimination</u> and <u>double jeopardy</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>6th</u>	Protects the right to a <u>fair</u> and <u>speedy public trial by jury</u> , including the rights to be notified of the <u>accusations</u> , to <u>confront the accuser</u> , to <u>obtain witnesses</u> and to retain <u>counsel</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>7th</u>	Provides for the right to <u>trial by jury</u> in certain <u>civil cases</u> , according to <u>common law</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>8th</u>	Prohibits excessive <u>fines</u> and excessive <u>bail</u> , as well as <u>cruel and unusual punishment</u>	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>9th</u>	Protects <u>rights not enumerated</u> in the Constitution	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>10th</u>	Reinforces the principle of <u>federalism</u> by stating that the <u>federal government</u> possesses only those powers delegated to it by the states or the people through the Constitution	September 25, 1789	December 15, 1791	2 years, 81 days
<u>11th</u>	Makes states immune from suits from out-of-state citizens and foreigners not living within the state borders; lays the foundation for <u>sovereign</u>	March 4, 1794	February 7, 1795	340 days

No.	Subject ^[7]	Ratification ^{[8][9]}		
		Submitted	Completed	Time span
	<u>immunity</u>			
<u>12th</u>	Revises <u>presidential election</u> procedures by having the president and vice president elected together as opposed to the vice president being the runner up in the presidential election	December 9, 1803	June 15, 1804	189 days
<u>13th</u>	Abolishes <u>slavery</u> , and <u>involuntary servitude</u> , except as punishment for a crime	January 31, 1865	December 6, 1865	309 days
<u>14th</u>	Defines <u>citizenship</u> , contains the <u>Privileges or Immunities Clause</u> , the <u>Due Process Clause</u> , the <u>Equal Protection Clause</u> , and deals with post- <u>Civil War</u> issues	June 13, 1866	July 9, 1868	2 years, 26 days
<u>15th</u>	Prohibits the denial of the <u>right to vote</u> based on race, color or previous condition of servitude	February 26, 1869	February 3, 1870	342 days
<u>16th</u>	Permits Congress to levy an <u>income tax</u> without apportioning it among the various states or basing it on the <u>United States Census</u>	July 12, 1909	February 3, 1913	3 years, 206 days
<u>17th</u>	Establishes the direct election of <u>United States senators</u> by popular vote	May 13, 1912	April 8, 1913	330 days
<u>18th</u>	Prohibited the <u>manufacturing or sale of alcohol</u> within the United States (Repealed December 5, 1933, via the 21st Amendment)	December 18, 1917	January 16, 1919	1 year, 29 days
<u>19th</u>	Prohibits the denial of the <u>right to vote based on sex</u>	June 4, 1919	August 18, 1920	1 year, 75 days
<u>20th</u>	Changes the date on which the terms of the president and vice president and of members of	March 2, 1932	January 23, 1933	327 days

No.	Subject ^[7]	Ratification ^{[8][9]}		
		Submitted	Completed	Time span
	Congress end and begin (to January 20 and January 3 respectively)			
<u>21st</u>	Repeals the 18th Amendment and makes it a federal offense to transport or import intoxicating liquors into U.S. states and territories where such transport or importation is prohibited by the laws of those states and territories	February 20, 1933	December 5, 1933	288 days
<u>22nd</u>	Limits the number of times that a person can be elected president: a person cannot be elected president more than twice, and a person who has served more than two years of a term to which someone else was elected cannot be elected more than once	March 24, 1947	February 27, 1951	3 years, 340 days
<u>23rd</u>	Grants the <u>District of Columbia</u> electors in the Electoral College, their number being equal to those of the least populous state	June 16, 1960	March 29, 1961	286 days
<u>24th</u>	Prohibits the revocation of voting rights due to the non-payment of a <u>poll tax</u> or any other tax	September 14, 1962	January 23, 1964	1 year, 131 days
<u>25th</u>	Addresses succession to the presidency and establishes procedures both for filling a vacancy in the office of the vice president, as well as responding to presidential disabilities	July 6, 1965	February 10, 1967	1 year, 219 days
<u>26th</u>	Prohibits the denial of the right of US citizens, eighteen years of age or older, to vote on account	March 23, 1971	July 1, 1971	100 days

No.	Subject ^[7]	Ratification ^{[8][9]}		
		Submitted	Completed	Time span
	of age			
<u>27th</u>	Delays laws affecting Congressional salary from taking effect until after the next election of <u>representatives</u>	September 25, 1789	May 5, 1992	202 years, 223 days

Summation of ratification data for each ratified amendment

" Y " indicates that state ratified amendment																		
" N " indicates that state rejected amendment																		
" Y ^(†) " indicates that state ratified amendment after first rejecting it																		
" Y ^(x) " indicates that state ratified amendment, later rescinded that ratification, but subsequently re-ratified it																		
" — " indicates that state did not complete action on amendment																		
" … " indicates that amendment was ratified before state <u>joined the Union</u>																		
State (in order of statehood)	1- 10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<u>Delaware</u>	Y	Y	N	Y ^(†)	Y ^(†)	Y ^(†)	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—
<u>New Jersey</u>	Y	—	Y	Y ^(†)	Y ^(x)	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Georgia</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	—	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	—	Y	—	—	—	Y	Y
<u>Connecticut</u>	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	—
<u>Maryland</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>South Carolina</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	—	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	N	Y	—	—	Y	Y	Y
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Virginia</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	N	—	Y	Y ^(†)	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>New York</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(x)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—
<u>North Carolina</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Vermont</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Kentucky</u>	...	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y ^(‡)	Y ^(‡)	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—	Y	Y	—	Y
<u>Tennessee</u>	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Ohio</u>	...	...	Y	Y	Y ^(x)	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Louisiana</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	—	Y	—	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Indiana</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Mississippi</u>	...	...	...	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	—	Y	—	N	Y	—	—	—
<u>Illinois</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Alabama</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Maine</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Missouri</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Arkansas</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	—	Y	Y	Y
<u>Michigan</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Florida</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	—	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	—	Y
<u>Texas</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Iowa</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Wisconsin</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>California</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Minnesota</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Oregon</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y ^(x)	Y ^(‡)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Kansas</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>West</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Virginia</u>																			
<u>Nevada</u>	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y
<u>Nebraska</u>	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Colorado</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>North Dakota</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	—	—	Y	Y
<u>South Dakota</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	—	—	Y	Y
<u>Montana</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Washington</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Idaho</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Wyoming</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Y
<u>Utah</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y
<u>Oklahoma</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	N	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>New Mexico</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y
<u>Arizona</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	—	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Alaska</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Hawaii</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
State (in order of statehood)	1– 10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	

(Ratification Charts from Wikipedia)

Modifications:

Teachers can choose to limit the scope of this lesson. You can select specific issues that you wish to be addressed.

Research can also be assigned entirely as homework and may be given over several days, thereby inserting other lessons in between the first day of the lesson and the remaining days.

Extensions:

The lesson can be expanded to include Supreme Court decisions which interpret the amendments to the constitution.

References:

FPRI:

The Bill of Rights and Amending the Constitution: An FPRI Primer.

The Constitution. National Archives.

www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution

ORBIS—FPRI's Journal of Foreign Affairs. Numerous articles throughout its publishing history concerning the Constitution.

Educator Resources. Bill of Rights Institute. www.billofrightsinsitute.org

Human Rights Library of the University of Minnesota.

www.hrlibrary.umn.edu/education/all_amendments_usconst.htm