



We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

QUIZ

Unit One, Lesson 6

“What were the first state governments like?”

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary Matching

Directions: Write the letter of the definition next to the appropriate vocabulary words.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bill of Rights _____ | a. the branch of government that interprets and applies the laws and settles disputes |
| 2. checks and balances _____ | b. the branch of government that makes laws |
| 3. executive branch _____ | c. the sharing and balancing of power among different branches of government so no one branch can completely control the others |
| 4. higher law _____ | d. the first ten amendments to the Constitution; lists basic rights of the people the federal government may not interfere with and must protect |
| 5. judicial branch _____ | e. the division of powers among the different branches of government. In the United States, powers are divided among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches |
| 6. legislative branch _____ | f. the branch of government that carries out the laws made by the legislative branch |
| 7. separation of powers _____ | g. a set of laws that are superior to other laws. The U.S. Constitution is a higher law than any federal or state law. |

Short Answer

Directions: Answer the following instruction in the space provided below. If you need additional space, continue your answer on a separate page.

8. Describe the purposes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

Multiple Choice

Directions: Read the following partial statements carefully. Circle only the best answer that completes each statement.

8. Early state constitutions gave most of the power to
 - a. the legislative branch; people elected the representatives, so that made it the safest branch since it was most likely to protect the rights of the citizens.
 - b. the executive branch; a governor was supposed to enforce laws, so that made him the safest person to trust in a government.
 - c. the judicial branch; since judges decided what laws meant and settled conflicts, they were the safest people to trust.
 - d. the people; judges, governors, and legislators shouldn't be trusted because they might abuse the citizens' rights.

9. After declaring independence in 1776, citizens in most states
 - a. thought of themselves as citizens of one, independent nation.
 - b. were more loyal to their state than their nation.
 - c. felt the purpose of government was to protect a person's right to life, liberty, and property.
 - d. Both b and c are true.

10. Most state constitutions
 - a. included a bill of rights listing citizens' rights.
 - b. limited power by separation of power; they divided power among three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
 - c. set up a system of checks and balances to keep individual branches of government from becoming too powerful.
 - d. did all of the above.

11. Checks and balances
 - a. allow one branch of government to become more powerful than the others.
 - b. do not allow one branch of government to become more powerful than the others.
 - c. allow each branch of government to "check," or stop, each of the other branches from gaining too much power.
 - d. allow governments to spend and deposit money into banks.

12. Most state constitutions began with a bill of rights probably because
 - a. protecting individual citizens' rights were not that important.
 - b. that was the easiest part to write.
 - c. they had to.
 - d. protecting individual rights was an important idea—probably one of the most important.

Lesson 6 Answers

1. D 2. C 3. F 4. G 5. A 6. B 7. E 8. SEE PAGES 49-50, "IDEAS ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT"
8. A 9. D 10. D 11. C 12. D