



Democracy in America “JAY WALKING”

OBJECTIVE(S)

Students determine which facts adults in their community know, compare the knowledge of surveyed adults, and analyze the results.

- ✓ Lead the class in a discussion of the results. This discussion can revolve around why certain questions were missed most and what can be done to make adults more aware of the Constitution and what it says. Results can be submitted to the school newspaper.

MATERIALS

“Democracy in America Jay Walking” worksheet	Graph Paper
“Democracy in America Jay Walking” answers	

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What part of the quiz was the most difficult for you? Is this the same or different than for the adult you surveyed?*
- ★ *Do you think this exercise was easier for you or the adult? Why?*
- ★ *How do the things outlined in the Constitution affect your everyday life?*
- ★ *How would the country be different without the Constitution?*

GET READY

- ✓ Ensure that students have a working knowledge of the Constitution.
- ✓ Make enough copies of the “Constitutional Jay Walking” worksheet for each student to have two: one to complete in class and one to take home for an adult.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ★ *National Constitution Center web site which provides printable full-text of the Constitution:*
http://constitutioncenter.org/ncc_edu_Text_of_the_Constitution.aspx
- ★ *The National Archives web site – provides .pdf image of original Constitution, as well as other historical documents:*
<http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/document.html?doc=3&title.raw=Constitution%20of%20the%20United%20States>
- ★ *The National Archives web site, which provides a detailed history of the Constitution:*
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_history.html
- ★ *CongressforKids.net – provides a more basic and interactive way to explore the history of the Constitution:*
http://www.congressforkids.net/Constitution_index.htm

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Have students complete the “Democracy in America Jay Walking” worksheet individually.
- ✓ Have students check their answers using the Constitution as a primary document or other resources and correct any wrong answers.
- ✓ Discuss the correct answers as a class to ensure comprehension.
- ✓ Have students take a copy of the worksheet and administer it to an adult. Instruct them not to share answers with the adult beforehand.
- ✓ Working in small groups, have students score the adult worksheets and compile class results into bar graphs, identifying which questions were most often missed.



Democracy in America “JAY WALKING”

(Continued)

Please have fun with our Civics class as we gather information about democracy in America to calculate and analyze. Remember – no looking up answers, changing answers later or asking for help!

1. The U.S. President is elected for _____ years.
2. This document was a proclamation of the former American colonies that they were now and henceforth free states: _____
3. How many branches are there in the government of the U.S.? _____
4. What is the head executive of a city government called? _____
5. Article _____ states that the Constitution shall be the Supreme Law of the Land.
6. Article _____ sets forth the ways to amend the Constitution.
7. How many Supreme Court Justices are there? _____
8. How many full terms can the president of the U.S. serve? _____
9. Who becomes president of the U.S. if the president should die? _____
10. Pilgrim-agreement before landing at Plymouth to pass and obey laws for the good of the colony: _____
11. George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the _____ Army.
12. Name the two branches of Congress: _____ and _____.
13. A change to the U.S. Constitution is called a/an _____.
14. Article I of the Constitution tells how the _____ branch should work.
15. What is the head executive of a state called? _____
16. On Independence Day, we celebrate independence from _____.
17. What is the highest court of law in the U.S. ? _____
18. What is the introduction to the U.S. Constitution called? _____
19. What are the first 10 amendments called? _____
20. Who has the power to declare war? _____



Chiesman Center
for DEMOCRACY, INC.

©2009 Kids Voting USA, Inc – All rights reserved.

This lesson was adapted from a Kids Voting South Dakota lesson designed by Kathy Wolff, Rapid City Area School District, Stevens High School, Rapid City, SD and developed by the Legislative Education for Greater Inquiry and Study (LEGIS). The contents of the K – 12 LEGIS LESSONS were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education , Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools under grant number Q304C070008. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. EDGAR 75.620



Democracy in America “JAY WALKING”

(Continued)

31. Where can the original Constitution be viewed? _____
32. These essays were written to defend and promote the ratification of the new Constitution:

33. Name given to the group who did not favor ratification of the new Constitution:

34. The Constitutional Convention met in this city: _____
35. How many articles are there in the Constitution: _____
36. Who was the only president to serve as a Supreme Court Justice? _____
37. Name the Supreme Court Case that began desegregation of public schools in the United States:
_____ v. _____
38. Who is referred to as the “Father of the Constitution”? _____
39. Which president served the longest term in office? _____
40. Each of the three branches of government can limit the powers of the others by this system of
_____ and _____.

Thank you for taking this quiz! Your student surveyor should discuss the answers with you as soon as you are done with the quiz. Please sign your name below to verify this assignment.

Adult Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____



Democracy in America “JAY WALKING”

(Continued)

Answer Key

1. The U.S. President is elected for **(4)** years.
2. This document was a proclamation of the former American colonies that they were now and henceforth free states: **(Declaration of Independence)**
3. How many branches are there in the government of the U.S.? **(3)**
4. What is the head executive of a city government called? **(Mayor)** In some cases it's a commission, council or city manager rather than a mayor.
5. Article **(6)** states that the Constitution shall be the Supreme Law of the Land.
6. Article **(5)** sets forth the ways to amend the Constitution.
7. How many Supreme Court Justices are there? **(9)**
8. How many full terms can the president of the U.S. serve? **(2)**
9. Who becomes president of the U.S. if the president should die? **(Vice-President)**
10. Pilgrim-agreement before landing at Plymouth to pass and obey laws for the good of the colony: **(Mayflower Compact)**
11. George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the **(Continental)** Army.
12. Name the two branches of Congress: **(Senate)** and **(House of Representatives)**.
13. A change to the U.S. Constitution is called a/an**(amendment)**.
14. Article I of the Constitution tells how the **(Legislative)** branch should work.
15. What is the head executive of a state called? **(Governor)**
16. On Independence Day, we celebrate independence from **(England or Great Britain)**
17. What is the highest court of law in the U.S. ? **(Supreme Court)**
18. What is the introduction to the U.S. Constitution called? **(The Preamble)**
19. What are the first 10 amendments called? **(The Bill of Rights)**
20. Who has the power to declare war? **(Congress)**
21. Where can the original Constitution be viewed? **(National Archives in Washington, D.C.)**
22. These essays were written to defend and promote the ratification of the new Constitution: **(Federalist Papers)**
23. Name given to the group who did not favor ratification of the new Constitution: **(Anti-Federalists)**
24. The Constitutional Convention met in this city: **(Philadelphia)**
25. How many articles are there in the Constitution: **(7)**
26. Who was the only president to serve as a Supreme Court Justice? **(Taft)**
27. Name the Supreme Court Case that began desegregation of public schools in the United States: **(Brown) v. (Board of Education)**
28. Who is referred to as the “Father of the Constitution”? **(James Madison)**
29. Which president served the longest term in office? **(Franklin D. Roosevelt)**
30. Each of the three branches of government can limit the powers of the others by this system of **(checks)** and **(balances)**.