

## PUZZLED ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION

Learning objectives: The student will

1. Identify key ideas dealing with the Constitution.
2. Work cooperatively in groups to solve a puzzle.

Materials Needed:

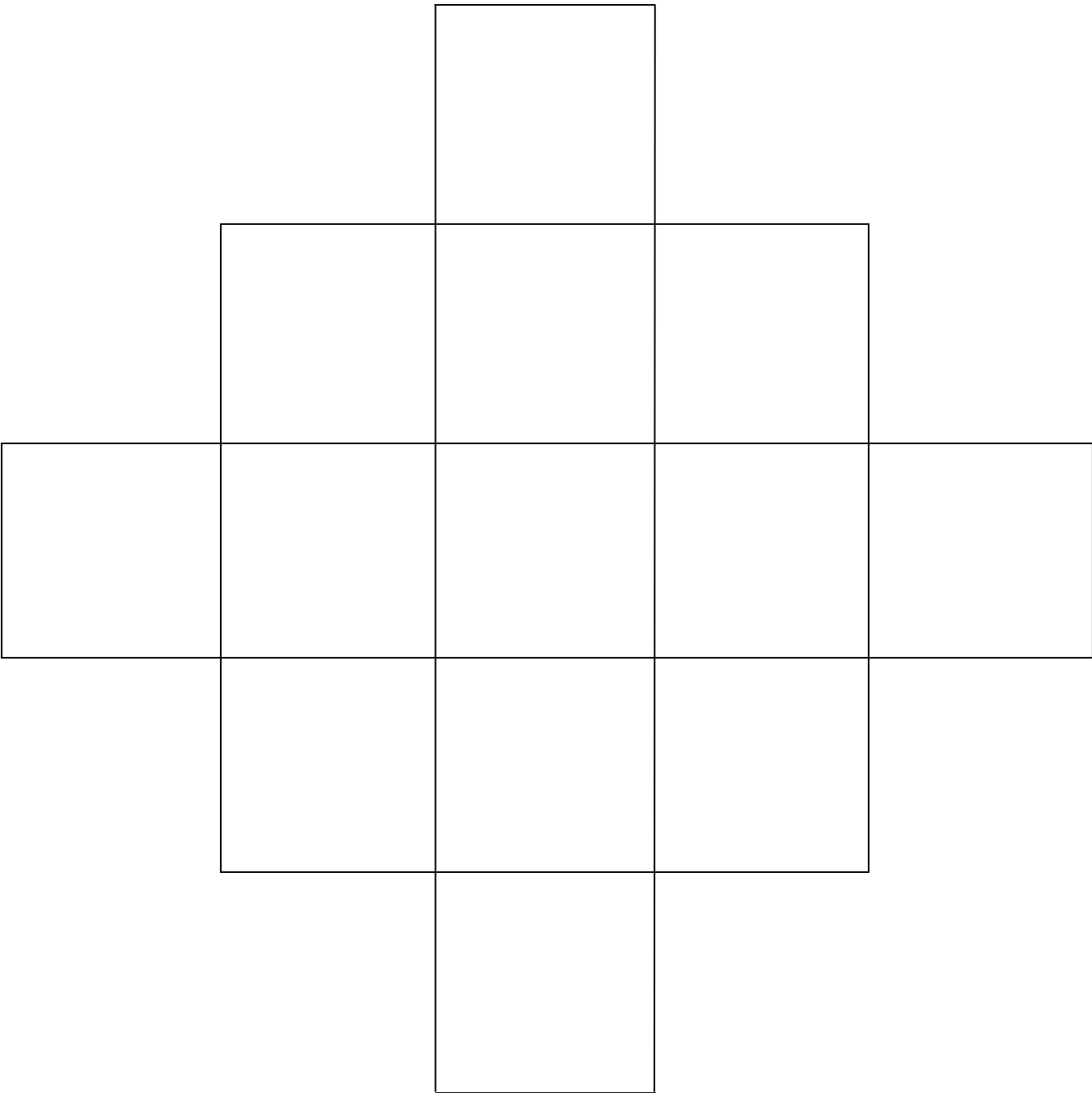
1. A set of puzzles for each group;
2. Desk or floor space for student groups to complete the puzzles.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Use this activity after students have studied the Constitution as a follow-up to check for understanding, as a test review, or to celebrate Constitution Day.
2. Divide the class into groups of three or four students each.
3. Provide each group with a set of the Constitution puzzle with the pieces cut apart. Hint: For students who have trouble with this type of activity, tell them to begin by turning all pieces of the puzzle with the all of the flags facing the same way. They are to match the statements on the corresponding sides. The teacher can also display the sheet that is included with the finished puzzle shape.
4. Allow time for student groups to read, discuss and complete the puzzles.
5. After puzzles have been completed, culminate the activity with a discussion on the key provided in the Constitution. Suggested questions include:
  - What are the key principles used in writing the U.S. Constitution?
  - Why did the founding fathers believe so strongly in limiting the power of government?
  - Would you have supported the ratification of the Constitution without the Bill of Rights?

Key:


1. Separation of Powers—Power divided between legislative, executive, and judicial
2. Republican Government—System when officials are elected to serve at the will of the citizens
3. James Madison—Father of the Constitution
4. 1787—Year the Constitution was written
5. Checks and Balances—Each branch has controls over the other two to prevent abuse
6. 1791—Year the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution
7. Limited Government—Government's power is limited by the rule of law
8. Articles of Confederation—First constitution characterized by weak central government
9. Federalism—Powers divided between national and state governments
10. Preamble—Introduction to the Constitution that sets the goals of government
11. Popular Sovereignty—Ultimate power rests with the citizens
12. Alexander Hamilton—One of the leading Federalists
13. Bill of Rights—First ten amendments to the Constitution
14. Individual Rights—Personal freedoms guaranteed by the government
15. Federalists Papers—Written to support ratification of the Constitution
16. Anti-Federalists—Opposed to ratification because no Bill of Rights in the Constitution



# CONSTITUTION PUZZLE p. 1

Bill of Rights

Alexander Hamilton




Power divided between legislative, executive, and judicial branches

Popular Sovereignty

Checks and Balances

Father of the Constitution




1791

Limited Government

Year the Constitution was written

Preamble




Articles of Confederation

Federalism

Written to support ratification of the Constitution

Personal freedoms guaranteed by the government



Anti-Federalists

System where officials are elected to serve at will of citizens

# CONSTITUTION PUZZLE p. 2

1787



Separation of Powers

James Madison

Republican Government

Government's power is limited by the rule of law



First constitution characterized by weak central government

Each branch has controls over the other two to prevent abuse



Opposed ratification because no Bill of Rights in the Constitution

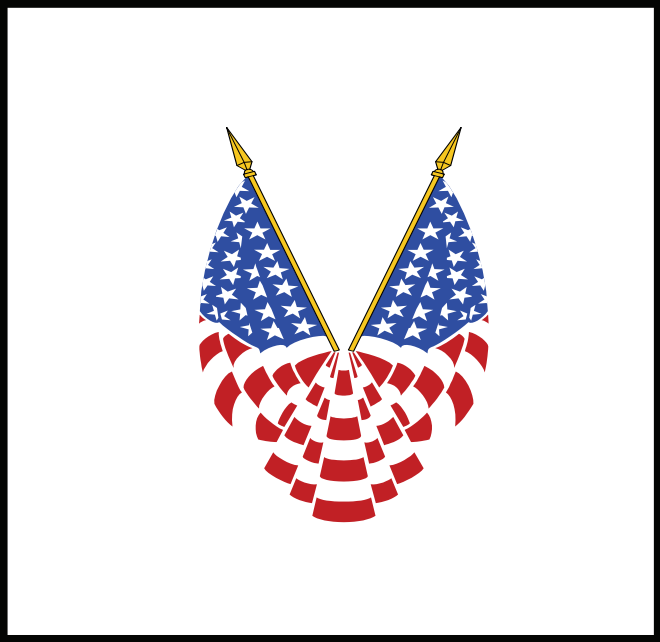
Year the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution



# CONSTITUTION PUZZLE p. 3



Powers divided between national and state governments



Introduction to the Constitution that sets the goals of government

Ultimate power rests with the citizens



One of the leading Federalists

# CONSTITUTION PUZZLE p. 4



First ten amendments to the  
Constitution

Individual Rights



Federalists Papers