Experiments in Government

Name: ________________________________

Period: ______________________________
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<td>Constitution</td>
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<td>Bill of Rights</td>
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<td>Articles of Confederation</td>
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<td>Land Ordinance of 1785</td>
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<td>Northwest Ordinance</td>
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<td>Executive Branch</td>
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<td>Judicial Branch</td>
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<td>Three-Fifths Compromise</td>
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<td>Republic</td>
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<td>Checks and Balances</td>
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The Articles of Confederation (1777-1789)

Background:
During the Revolutionary War, the American colonies needed to coordinate their efforts against Britain. They created an emergency government to raise money for the war effort called The Continental Congress. After the Revolution the colonies were officially independent from Great Britain. They needed to create a system of government to run this new nation. The first system created was known as The Articles of Confederation and was adopted on November 15, 1777. In its final form, the Articles of Confederation were comprised of a preamble and 13 articles.

Approved by the last of the 13 American states, Maryland, in 1781, the Articles became the ruling document in the new nation. The Articles created a nation that was "a league of friendship and perpetual union."

Directions: Review the chart and complete the questions.

The Articles of Confederation

| Structure | • One branch of government: Congress, responsible for making national laws  
|           | • Each state had one (1) vote in Congress  
|           | • No executive (President)  
|           | • No judicial branch |

| Decision-making | • 9 of 13 states had to approve a proposal before it could become a law  
|                 | • All the states had to agree to change an existing law |

| Money and Finances | • The Articles of Confederation could not collect taxes  
|                    | • The A of C had to ask the individual states for money  
|                    | • The A of C could print and borrow money  
|                    | • Each state could regulate trade with other states  
|                    | • Each state could tax its residents |

| Protection | • The A of C managed agreements with other countries and Native Americans  
|           | • The Articles of Confederation could appoint military officers  
|           | • Only the states could establish militias |

| Other | The A of C established  
|       | • a postal system  
|       | • weights and measures  
|       | • courts  
|       | • consequences for piracy |

1. Where did the Articles of Confederation place the most government power? (HINT look for repeated words). __________________

2. Give two examples from the chart.

3. WHY do you think the first government of the United States was set this way?
NOTE: The following situations are NOT 100% accurate are similar to those that existed after the Revolution, with the Articles of Confederation.

Directions:
- Review each case study with your partner
- Use the chart of the Articles from today's class and
- Explain whether the Articles of Confederation could solve this problem (bullet point notes)

1. Leanne Keene, French ambassador, arrives from Paris to tell you France needs the money it lent the colonies during the Revolution immediately. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?

2. Neil Thisse is a Loyalist who fled the colonies during the Revolution and has returned to reclaim his property in Dover, MA. According to the Treaty of Paris, he is entitled to his land. However, Massachusetts has passed a law that ignores the claims of former Loyalists. Charles appeals to the Articles for the return of his property. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?

3. A group of poor farmers in Massachusetts, led by Taylor Coutts and John Sullivan is angered by war debts, bad harvests and high taxes. When their debt-ridden farms are taken by the bank, they march on the state capital in protest. Massachusetts sends their militia to try to stop them and appeals to Congress for assistance. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?

4. Both New Hampshire and New York desire more territory for settlers within their states. New land would increase trade, profit and power for their individual states. They claim Vermont territory and appeal to the Articles to settle the dispute. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?

5. Foreign countries do not respect American independence. Although the Treaty of Paris granted the United States all the land east of the Mississippi, Britain refuses to withdraw troops from the Ohio Valley. In addition, Spain closes New Orleans port to American farmers. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?

6. Some individual states have abolished slavery in their constitutions. Confederation delegates Nevin Weinberg and Dani Kwatcher propose an amendment to abolish slavery in the entire country. Can the Articles of Confederation solve this problem? Why/Why not?
Articles of Confederation Worksheet

The term "articles" means parts or provisions of a document. Answer the following questions using the excerpts of the Articles of Confederation or by using a copy of the full document. The answer can be found in the article listed for each question.

1. **Article V**
   a. How many delegates to Congress could each state have?
   b. How many votes did each state have?

2. **Article VIII**
   a. Where would Congress get money to run the country?
   b. How would this be enforced?

3. **Article IX**
   a. What were the powers of Congress that were limited in this excerpt of Article IX?
   b. What was necessary for Congress to pass a law?

4. **Draw a symbol or diagram to represent the Articles of Confederation.**
Articles of Confederation

Article V.

...No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two [members], nor by no more than seven members:...

...In determining questions in the United States, in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote:....

Article VIII.

...All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states:....

...The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled:....

Article IX.

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or [of] any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States:....

...unless nine states assent to the same; nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day, be determined unless by the votes of a majority of the United States in Congress assembled:....
The School of Governments Report Card
Student Name: **Articles of Confederation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reason for grades/Suggestions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raising Taxes</strong></td>
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<td>Course Goal: Raise enough taxes to</td>
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<td>maintain the government, fund an</td>
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<td>army, and pay for debts.</td>
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<td>Course Goal: Create a process for</td>
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<td>impossible.</td>
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<td>Course Goals: Maintain order in the</td>
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<td>country, earn respect of states and</td>
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<td>citizens so they follow laws. Pay</td>
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<td>off debts to citizens.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Handling Foreign Affairs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Goals: Gain respect in the</td>
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<tr>
<td>world, create fair trade agreements.</td>
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<td>create treaties that favor your</td>
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<td>country, pay off foreign debts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organizing A Government</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Goals: Create a strong central government, have a strong leader; create a court system to handle disputes between the states.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Handling of the Northwest Territory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Goals: Create a system for governing and maintaining the land gained from the Treaty of Paris, create a system to make the territories states.</td>
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The Need for a New Plan

Articles of Confederation

The Declaration of Independence did not ensure a victory against the greatest Empire in the world. When the signers of the Declaration of Independence sent that letter to the King, they sent him all of the information he needed to hunt down those who were committing treason. They were the leaders of a rebellion the King had hoped to put down quickly and continue his mercantilists' policies. It would take a very long and bloody war before the newly established United States of America was recognized as a country in the eyes of Great Britain and the world.

While the war raged on, the signers of the Declaration of Independence realized the urgency to organize a new form of government.

Their first attempt, like many new ventures, succeeded in some respects while failing in others. After a few years, however, the problems facing the new nation had become so serious that the United States' new leaders called for a better plan.

What were the many problems facing the men who attended the 1st Continental Congress?
They agreed that each state would create their own government along with a central or national government to deal with these many issues.

**Establishing a National Government**

While the states were forming their governments, the Second Continental Congress began to write a constitution for the nation as a whole. In 1776 most Americans felt greater loyalty to their states than to the new nation. Although most people agreed that a national government was needed, they were unwilling to grant it too much power.

After many debates, the delegates finally agreed on a plan of government. The first constitution proposed to guide the US government, completed in 1777, was called the

**Articles of Confederation.**

The provisions stated:

- Congress would be the national governing body
- Congress had the power to declare war.
- Congress had the power to sign treaties with other nations.
- Delegates from each state would represent their states in Congress.
- Each state would have an equal vote in Congress.
Restrictions on the Article of Confederation:

This national government was essentially established to carry out the military campaign against Britain. But, fearing the abuses of power, the writers of the Articles intentionally limited the authority of the new government.

- Power to Pass Laws – Congress could make laws but 9 out of the 13 states had to approve a law before it went into effect. Reaching agreements amongst the states was difficult and took a very long time.
- Power to Tax – Congress could not raise money. They could ask for it from the states. Congress couldn’t raise funds to pay their army officers.
- Power to Regulate Trade – Congress did not have the power to regulate trade between the states. Each state set their own tariffs causing friction between states.

Why do you think these men formed a government with strong state governments but a weak national government?

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A Call for Revision

The government’s inability to raise needed tax revenues and to resolve continuing trade disputes between the states led many Americans to question the value of the Articles of Confederation. The national government’s lack of authority was made still more evident when rebellion erupted in Massachusetts in 1786.
Shay’s Rebellion

During the American Revolution, many farmers left their land to fight the British. The task of producing the nation’s food was left in the hands of fewer people, which led to reduced production, greater demand, and higher prices. To meet the demand, farmers borrowed money from banks for land, seed, animals, and tools. Since farm prices were up, banks were willing to lend money. When the war ended, however, crop prices dropped and many farmers were unable to repay the money they had borrowed.

Farmers in western Massachusetts were especially hard hit by falling farm prices. To make matters worse, Massachusetts raised taxes. Many farmers were left with more debt than they could manage, and closed the courts to prevent judges from foreclosing on mortgages.

Daniel Shays was a MA farmer who had fought in the Revolution. In 1786 Shays gathered a force of 2,000 angry farmers, who attacked courthouses and tried to take a warehouse full of rifles and gunpowder. Massachusetts officials quickly raised an army and ended the rebellion.

Although Shays’ Rebellion ended, many American leaders worried about the implications of the event. George Washington and other respected leaders feared that the Articles had given the national government too little power, rendering it incapable of maintaining order in the land. Only five years after the states had approved the Article of Confederation, many Americans were calling for change.

How did Shay’s Rebellion’s reveal the fatal flaw in the Articles of Confederation?
**Shay’s Rebellion Choice Assignment**

**First Choice:**

Imagine you were a farmer on the brink of Shay’s Rebellion. Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper describing your complaints and how you think the states government should help you.

**Second Choice:**

Create a political cartoon that depicts the issues at the center of Shay’s Rebellion. Cartoon needs to be creative and colored.
A More Perfect Union:
The Constitutional Convention

1. How many delegates were at the Convention?  

2. Where was the Convention held (City and building)?  

3. Who was elected President of the Convention?  


5. Explain the important role of James Madison at the election.  

6. What was the rule on absolute secrecy and why was it important?  

7. Explain the Virginia Plan (i.e. what kind of government would be set up, how would power be divided and checked?).  

8. Who wrote the Virginia Plan?  

9. Who presented the Virginia Plan to the Convention?
10. Explain the New Jersey plan.

11. Who wrote the New Jersey Plan?

12. What happened to the New Jersey Plan?

13. Explain the Great Compromise.

14. What was the disagreement between the large states and the small states?

15. What was one of the disagreements between the northern states and the southern states?

16. Explain the Three-Fifths Compromise.

17. Explain the compromise the Convention came up with about the "importation of slaves".

18. What date did the Convention begin?

19. What date was the Constitution signed by the members of the Convention?

20. Who decided not to sign the Constitution?

21. What needed to happen in order for the Constitution to be ratified (approved)?
GRAPHIC ORGANIZER ASSESSMENT
ON THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Directions

On the next page is the framework for a graphic organizer in which you can show what you have learned about the branches of government. You will do three things to show what you have learned:

1. In each box, list at least three constitutional powers of that branch. You should also list one constitutional limit on that branch’s power.

2. On the lines connecting the boxes, write at least one example of how the two branches check each other’s power.

3. In the space in the center, summarize how power is separated among the three branches and give a reason why separation of powers is important. Provide an example that illustrates your reason.
Describe how the two sides compromised.

THE THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE

THE CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE

Plan

Plan
2.3 Establishing a Government Worksheet

Articles of Confederation

01. In what year was the Articles of Confederation ratified? ________________________

02. One of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation was it was difficult to pass laws. Under the Articles of Confederation, how many of the thirteen states were required to agree in order for a law to pass? ________________________

03. How did Congress get money since the Articles of Confederation didn’t grant Congress the power to impose taxes? ________________________

04. Other countries quickly saw the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. What did the following two countries do that tested the United States inability to raise a federal army?
   England: ________________________
   Spain: ________________________

05. What was the cause of Daniel Shay’s Rebellion in 1786? ________________________

United States Constitution

06. In what year did the delegates meet to revise the Articles of Confederation? ____________
   In which city did they meet? ________________________

07. Which state was the only one not to send any delegates to the first meeting? ________________________

08. What are decisions reached as a result of disagreeing parties being willing to give up a little of what they want? ________________________

09. What (2) delegates proposed the Virginia Plan? ________________________ and ________________________

10. The Virginia Plan proposed a federal government made up of these ________________________ branches:
   a) It called for ____________ houses with representatives from each state.
   b) In each house, the number of representatives per state would be determined by ________________________

11. The ________________________ called for three branches of government, but it wanted the legislative branch to consist of only one house with each state getting a single vote.

12. The ________________________ established a legislative branch with two houses. Together, the two houses would comprise Congress.
   a) One house, called the ________________________, would be elected directly by the people and each state granted a certain number of seats based on population.
   b) The other house, called the ________________________, would be elected by state legislatures with each state having two senators, regardless of population.

13. What did the Three fifths Compromise state? ________________________

14. Under the Three-fifths Compromise, Northerners and delegates from the Upper South (Maryland and Virginia) who opposed the slave trade agreed to allow it to continue for ____________ years, after which time Congress could impose regulations.
Limited Government and Separation of Powers

15. Define limited government:

16. Define separation of powers:

17. Define checks and balances:

18. Under the Constitution, the federal government divides its power between three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Explain what each branch does:
   a) Legislative branch:
   b) Executive branch:
   c) Judicial branch:

19. That is the U.S. Supreme Court and what is its job:

Ratification

20. Why did many states refuse to ratify the Constitution in the beginning:

21. Georgia was the _______ state to ratify the Constitution.

22. When Congress met in 1789, one of its first orders of business was to pass the Bill of Rights. What is the Bill of Rights:

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

23. What were Federalists:

24. What were anti-Federalists:

25. What were the Federalist Papers:

26. What is James Madison’s nickname:

The Bill of Rights

27. What are the (5) freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment:
   a)
   b)
   c)
   d)
   e)

28. What is the free exercise clause:

29. What does the Second Amendment guarantee:

30. What does the Third Amendment state:

19
31. What does the Fourth Amendment protect? __________________________________________________________________________

32. What does the Fifth Amendment state? __________________________________________________________________________

33. In what (2) ways is a person protected by the Fifth Amendment?
   a) __________________________________________________________________________
   b) __________________________________________________________________________

34. What is meant by eminent domain? __________________________________________________________________________

35. In what (2) ways is a person protected by the Sixth Amendment?
   a) __________________________________________________________________________
   b) __________________________________________________________________________

36. What does it mean by a person having a trial by jury? __________________________________________________________________________

37. Explain the Seventh Amendment? __________________________________________________________________________

38. In what (2) ways is a person protected by the Eighth Amendment?
   a) __________________________________________________________________________
   b) __________________________________________________________________________

39. What is the difference between bail and a fine?
   a) Bail- __________________________________________________________________________
   b) Fines- __________________________________________________________________________

40. What does the Ninth Amendment state? __________________________________________________________________________

41. What does the Tenth Amendment state? __________________________________________________________________________
### U.S. Constitution Fact Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Constitutional Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Bill of Rights added to Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Alaska added to U.S. territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Amendment 22 limits the president to two terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Department of Education created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Constitution ratified by nine states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Supreme Court Assembled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Amendment 13 abolishes slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Rights to all naturalized citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Hawaii Admission Act makes Hawaii the 50th U.S. state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Did You Know...

- The Constitutional Convention took place in Philadelphia from May to September, 1787.
- The Constitution is four large pages long.
- Thirty-nine delegates signed the Constitution.
- James Madison, who went on to become the fourth president of the United States, helped write the Constitution.
- The U.S. Constitution is not only the oldest, but also the shortest constitution in the world.
- Excluding the Amendments, the Constitution is made up of only 4,400 words.
- Pennsylvania is spelled differently on the original document than it is today.
- Four of the delegates who signed the Constitution were born in Ireland.

### The U.S. Constitution Glossary

- **Amendment**: A deletion, addition, or modification to the U.S. Constitution.
- **Delegate**: A person elected or appointed to be a member of a representative assembly.
- **Electoral College**: Institution through which a U.S. president and vice president are elected per officials called "electors" in each state.
- **Ratify**: To approve and formally sanction.
- **Suffrage**: The right to vote.
- **Veto**: A power of one department or branch of a government to forbid or prohibit the carrying out of projects attempted by another department.

### Online Resources

- [www.archives.gov/](http://www.archives.gov/)
- [www.landmarkcases.org/](http://www.landmarkcases.org/)
- [http://fourthamendment.com/](http://fourthamendment.com/)
- [www.obamarecalls.com/](http://www.obamarecalls.com/)
Part I

When it comes to voting, the Constitution has been changed many times over the years. The definition of an eligible voter is a good example of this, having been the focus of many amendments. The time line on the right represents the dates of Constitutional Amendments that changed the rules for voting. Do research to complete the time line with the title of each amendment and a short explanation of the change it made.

Part II

Now, use a copy of the Constitution and the time line you’ve completed to answer the following questions.

1. Which amendment allowed residents of the District of Columbia to vote for the president and vice president?

2. How many years after the Constitution was ratified did women receive the right to vote?

3. In what year was the voting age lowered to 18? Before this amendment, at what age could people vote?

4. How long after slavery was abolished were African-Americans granted the right to vote?

5. Before 1913, how were U.S. senators elected?
Part I

The first three Articles of the Constitution detail each of the three branches of government—Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. The Articles establish how officials are chosen for each branch. In the table below, describe how each branch’s officials are chosen. Use a copy of the Constitution, or other resources to help you complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How they are chosen</th>
<th>Legislative</th>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Judicial</th>
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Part II

Answer the questions below on the back of this sheet.

1. Which branch of the government represents individual states?

2. Which government officials are elected every four years?

3. According to the Constitution, what are the requirements for being elected to the House of Representatives? How are these requirements similar to or different from those of the Senate?

4. Who acts as president of the Senate? What power do they have?

5. How are Supreme Court members placed on the court?
Read the article below, then answer the questions that follow.

**The Trial Tribune**

**VOL. 1**

WASHINGTON D.C., MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

**NO. 1**

**Jury Nowhere to Be Found**

WASHINGTON – Russell Dunmore couldn’t believe his eyes as he stared at the empty seats along the wall. The 12 chairs remained empty as he stood before the judge and heard his name mentioned in a civil lawsuit against his carpeting company. During the entire trial, not a single person showed up to fill those seats; there was no jury to be found.

Dunmore, 43, owned a small carpet-cleaning and repair company in Dearborn, Michigan. In March 2006, he and an employee were cleaning a carpet in the house of Nina Thompson of Melvindale, Michigan, when one of their rug cleaners shorted out and caught fire. Soon, the whole house was ablaze. Thompson, Dunmore, and his employee barely escaped with their lives. A few months later, Ms. Thompson brought a civil suit against Dunmore and his company.

The two sides tried to settle out of court but could not come to terms, so the suit was brought to court. In December 2006, Dunmore appeared before Judge Connie Brisch, prepared to defend himself in front of a jury of his peers from in and around Dearborn. He and his lawyer were surprised to see, however, that no jury had been called for his case. When Dunmore requested a trial by jury, he was denied. Judge Brisch also denied a motion by Dunmore’s attorney to declare a mistrial because of the violation of the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the right to trial by jury in civil cases. In the end, Judge Brisch ruled in favor of the plaintiff, Ms. Thompson, and awarded her a settlement of $1.3 million. Russell Dunmore had to sell his business and house and declare bankruptcy in order to pay the damages.

Six months of legal battles have led Dunmore and his attorney to Washington and the Supreme Court. Dunmore hopes to have the ruling overturned because of the violation of the Seventh Amendment. He goes before the court on October 1 to argue his case.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of case was brought against Russell Dunmore?

2. Who determined the ruling in the case?

3. What right does the Seventh Amendment ensure?

4. Do you think the Supreme Court should have upheld or overturned the previous ruling? Why or why not?
Review the amendment process below, then answer the questions that follow.

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

- 2/3 of Congress (made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate) proposes an amendment.
- 2/3 of state legislatures ask for a meeting to propose an amendment.
- A special convention is called and the amendment is proposed.
- 3/4 of state legislatures ratify (accept) the amendment.
- OR
- 3/4 of special state conventions ratify (accept) the amendment.

AN AMENDMENT IS MADE!

QUESTIONS:
1. What branch of the federal government is able to propose an amendment?

2. How many states are needed to make up the 3/4 majority that can ratify an amendment?

3. If you were a member of a state legislature, what would you need to do to get an amendment ratified?