

Articles 4-7: The States, Amendments, Federal Supremacy, and Ratification

BEFORE YOU READ

In Articles 2 and 3, you read about the powers of the executive and judicial branches.

Now you will see how Articles 4-7 grant specific powers to the national and state governments. You will also learn how the Constitution assures the supremacy of the national government.

TERMS & NAMES

extradition Procedure for returning a person charged with a crime to the state where the crime was committed

ratify To officially approve the Constitution or an Amendment to it

AS YOU READ

Continue your outline of the Constitution. Take notes on the relations among the states, how to amend the Constitution, how the Constitution was to be ratified, and the relation between the states and the national government.

Relations among states	
Amendments	
Ratification	
National government	

Article 4. Relations Among States (pages 262-263)

How do the states relate to one another?

Article 4 sets out many principles of the federal system. It describes the relations among the states. It also describes the relations between the national government and the states.

Section 1 declares that the separate states must accept decisions, such as criminal convictions, that occur in other states. Section 2.2 allows for extradition. **Extradition** means that if a person charged with a crime in one state flees to another state, he or she must be returned to the state where the crime was committed.

Section 2 states that citizens of any of the United States are citizens of the whole nation. They have the same rights and privileges of citizenship no matter

which state they are in. However, slaves were not considered to be citizens. As a result, they did not have the rights of citizens.

Section 2.3 provides for the return of "people held to service or labor" to "the party to whom such service or labor be due." This clause was meant to ensure that runaway slaves be returned to their slaveholders. This shows that the Constitution recognized slavery as valid, even though the word "slavery" is not used. When the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in 1865, it canceled this clause.

Section 3 describes the process for forming new states. It says that new states cannot be formed from any existing state without that state's approval. It also forbids the creation of a new state by joining together other states or parts of states unless the affected states

and Congress approve.

Section 3.2 gives Congress the authority to regulate any territory or property that belongs to the United States.

Section 4 guarantees that the states will have a republican form of government. It also ensures that the national government will defend the states against invasion or domestic violence.

1. According to Article 4, what responsibilities do the states owe to one another?

Amending the Constitution; The Supremacy of the National Government; Ratification (pages 263-265)

How can the Constitution be amended?

Article 5 sets up two ways of amending, or changing, the Constitution. In both cases, it takes more votes to **ratify**, or officially approve, an amendment than to propose an amendment.

To propose an amendment, it takes two-thirds of

Congress or two-thirds of state legislatures. It takes three-fourths of state legislatures or state conventions to ratify an amendment.

Article 6, Section 1 states that the new federal government that takes power after ratification of the Constitution will pay the debts of the United States that existed while the Confederation Congress governed the nation.

Section 2 makes the laws of the federal government the supreme law of the land. If a state law is in conflict with a national law, it is the national law that must be obeyed.

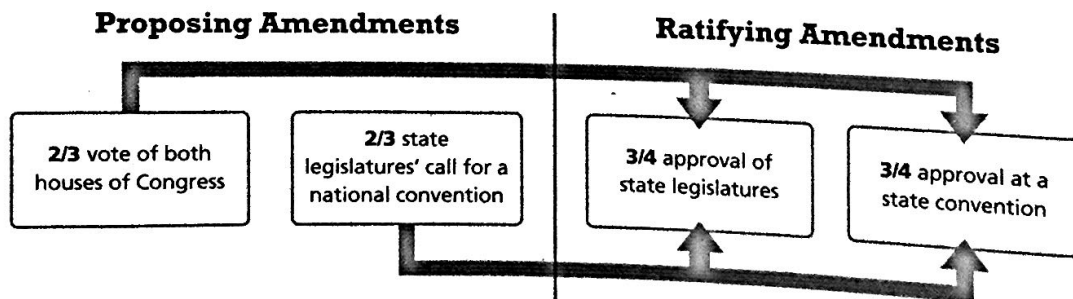
Section 3 states that senators and representatives must take an oath to support the Constitution. But no religious test shall ever be required to hold public office in the United States.

Finally, Article 7 says that the Constitution was to go into effect as soon as nine states voted to accept it. Nine was more than two-thirds of the states.

2. Why is it harder to ratify an amendment than to propose it?

Skillbuilder

Use the chart below to answer the questions.



1. In what two ways can a constitutional amendment be proposed?

2. In what two ways can an amendment be ratified?
