

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

# Constitution Day

## Fill-in-the-Blank Word Search

Y A M E N D M E N T S T H G I R F O L L I B Q R X  
P H I L A D E L P H I A W E T H E P E O P L E E B  
E V I T A L S I G E L A I C I D U J P R E S S B A  
S E V I T A T N E S E R P E R E B M E T P E S M L  
E V I T U C E X E M I S P R E S I D E N T Y A E A  
N J U R Y P N O I G I L E R U N U S U A L R J C N  
A T S R I F S P E E C H Y U W M A S S E M B L E C  
T C N O I T U T I T S N O C O N G R E S S B E D E  
E N I N E V E S Y T N E W T R U O C E M E R P U S  
Q S S E T A T S S E C O R P E T I T I O N G T Q Q

The United States **Constitution** \_\_\_\_\_ was signed by 39 men on **September** \_\_\_\_\_ 17, 1787, in **Philadelphia** \_\_\_\_\_, Pennsylvania and consisted of **seven** \_\_\_\_\_ articles outlining the operation of the national government. Opening with the famous first three words "**We the people** \_\_\_\_\_," the document outlined a specific separation of powers whereby three distinct branches of government would each have different responsibilities. The **Legislative** \_\_\_\_\_ branch, consisting of the United States **Congress** \_\_\_\_\_, which was further divided into a **Senate** \_\_\_\_\_ and House of **Representatives** \_\_\_\_\_, was established to craft laws and was given the power to collect taxes, govern the military, and declare war, among other responsibilities. The **Executive** \_\_\_\_\_ branch would be headed by the **President** \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, who would serve as Commander in Chief of the military and be responsible for signing bills into laws and ensuring they are faithfully executed. The **Judicial** \_\_\_\_\_ branch, consisting of the **Supreme Court** \_\_\_\_\_ and lower federal courts, was established to settle disputes. The specific responsibilities of each branch were calibrated to ensure a system of checks and **balances** \_\_\_\_\_ to keep any

single branch from consolidating too much control. The document also established the responsibilities of the **states** \_\_\_\_\_ and outlined the relationship between them and the federal government.

It took a year for the Constitution to be ratified by the minimum of **nine** \_\_\_\_\_ states and go into effect. During the push for ratification, delegates in many states were concerned the Constitution did not directly address individual **rights** \_\_\_\_\_. The first ten amendments, which became known as the **Bill of Rights** \_\_\_\_\_, were officially ratified on **December** \_\_\_\_\_ 15, 1791. The **First** \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment established several freedoms, including the freedom of **religion** \_\_\_\_\_, the freedom of **speech** \_\_\_\_\_ and of the **press** \_\_\_\_\_, and the freedom to **assemble** \_\_\_\_\_ and **petition** \_\_\_\_\_ the government. Other amendments addressed "the right of the people to keep and bear **arms** \_\_\_\_\_" as well as protections against unreasonable searches and seizures and cruel and **unusual** \_\_\_\_\_ punishments. They also sought to ensure the rights to due **process** \_\_\_\_\_ and trial by **jury** \_\_\_\_\_. In total, the Constitution has now been amended **twenty-seven** \_\_\_\_\_ times.