

COMPARING THE U.S. AND THE TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS**Comparing the United States and Texas Constitutions****Main ideas of the U. S. Constitution: (1787)**

Title of leader: President
 Term of Office: 4 years
 Re-election: 2 terms (not more than 10 years)
 Who elects: registered voters through the Electoral College
 Who makes laws? : Congress
 Who elects Congress?: registered voters in a direct popular election in each state or district
 Term of office: Senate - 6 years; House - 2 years and no limit on number of terms.
 Number of members: Senate - 100 Senators, two from each state; House - 435 - Representation based on population.
 Who approves/vetoes laws: President
 Who judges people and laws? : Courts (Judicial Branch) with justices appointed by the President with the approval of Congress.
 Who is protected by the Constitution: all people under due process
 Where are individual rights stated: the Bill of Rights
 Where are individual responsibilities stated: they are not stated; they are implied
 Amendments: 27

Main ideas of the Texas Constitution (1876):

Title of leader: Governor
 Term of Office: 4 years (was 2 years for 100 years after adoption)
 Re-election: unlimited
 Who elects: registered voters - direct election
 Who makes laws? : State legislature
 Who elects Legislature?: registered voters in a direct popular election in each Legislative district
 Term of office: Senate - 4 years; House - 2 years and no limit on number of terms. Bi-annual meetings in odd numbered years.
 Number of members: Senate - 31 Senators, representation based on population; House - 150 - Representation based on population.
 Who approves/vetoes laws: Governor
 Who judges people and laws? : Courts (Judicial Branch) with judges elected by the people of Texas.
 Who is protected by the Constitution: all people under due process
 Where are individual rights stated: the Bill of Rights
 Where are individual responsibilities stated: they are not stated; they are implied
 Amendments: hundreds (300+)

Category	U.S. Constitution	Texas Constitution	How are they alike or different?
Title of Leader?			
Term of office?			
Re-election?			
Who elects?			
Who makes Laws?			
Term of office?			
Number of members?			
Who elects?			
Who approves/vetoes laws?			
Who judges people and laws?			
How are they chosen?			
Who is protected by the Constitution?			
Where are individual rights stated?			
Where are individual responsibilities stated?			
How many amendments are there?			

LESSON 27: *The Constitution of Texas*

Texas Almanac Reference

"Constitution of Texas" 421-422

<http://capitol.state.tx.us/txconst/toc.html>



Social Studies TEKS

4 - 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24

7 - 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

8 - 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32

TAAS

4 - Reading - 2, 5

8 - Social Studies - 1, 3,

5, 7, 8

TAKS

8 - Social Studies - 4, 5

Instructional Suggestions

1. Students will answer these questions using "Constitution of Texas," pages 421-422.

- When was the Texas Constitution adopted?
- As of 2001, how many amendments to the Texas Constitution have been submitted to the voters?
- Explain the two steps necessary to amend the Texas Constitution.
- How can an amendment be submitted during a special session of the Legislature?
- Can the governor reject an amendment?
- Who makes the final decision of approving proposed amendments?
- In what year was the largest number of amendments submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature?
- List the years in which only one amendment was submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature.
- Was SJR 26 approved in 1999? What was the vote?
- Which proposed 1999 amendment concerned the provisions for filling a vacancy in the office of governor or lieutenant governor?
- What was the total vote on HJR 16?

2. Using "Index to the State Constitution" found on the above Web site or in previous *Texas Almanacs*, students will complete the Texas Constitution Chart. This may be done individually, in small groups, or as a whole-class activity.

3. Students will use the above Web site or previous *Texas Almanacs* to complete Texas Bill of Rights.

4. Students will use the above Web site or previous *Texas Almanacs* to complete Articles of the Texas Constitution.

5. Students will use the above Web site or previous *Texas Almanacs* to complete State Officials.

6. Students will use the above Web site or previous *Texas Almanacs* to complete Texas Voters.

7. Students will play Texas Bingo. Each student will receive a Texas Bingo game card. From the Texas Bingo Word List, each student will select and write one term in each square on his/her game card. Students may not use a term more than once. The teacher will copy the Texas Bingo Questions, cut them into strips, and place them in a basket/box. Individual students will select and read a question. The teacher will call on a volunteer to answer each question. If a student has that answer on his/her game card, he/she will cover it in a pre-determined manner. The first student to "bingo" wins the game. The teacher may want to offer a prize to the winner. NOTE: The teacher should be able to lead more than one Texas Bingo game in a class period.