

Why Rules Matter

See how the Constitution gives government a purpose and a plan.

SS.3.CG.1.1 "Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes the purpose and fulfills the need for government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that tell why the country needs a government. Circle phrases that show how the Constitution helps government meet those needs.

A Plan for Government

- ① The United States needed a government that could help people live together under fair rules. Before the Constitution, the states had trouble working as one country. In 1787, delegates wrote the Constitution. Its Preamble explains why government exists: to create justice, keep peace at home, defend the nation, support the common good, and protect liberty for all.
- ② The Constitution sets up three parts of the national government. Congress makes laws, the President carries out laws, and the courts explain what laws mean in cases. This plan divides power so one person cannot control everything. The Constitution also gives each part ways to limit the others. These rules help government make decisions while guarding against unfair use of power.
- ③ The Constitution protects people by placing limits on government and by listing important rights in its amendments. For example, the First Amendment protects freedoms such as speech and religion. The Constitution can be changed through an amendment process, but change requires careful agreement. By giving leaders powers, setting limits, and protecting rights, the Constitution helps government serve people fairly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem did the states have before the Constitution?

2 Name two purposes of government listed in the Preamble.

3 How does dividing power among three parts of government help people?

4 What are two ways the Constitution protects people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your neighborhood is making a plan for a new council. Write exactly three sentences that explain one need for the council, one way to divide or limit its power, and one right the plan should protect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that tell why the country needs a government. Circle phrases that show how the Constitution helps government meet those needs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did the states have before the Constitution?	They had trouble working as one country.
2	Name two purposes of government listed in the Preamble.	Any two: create justice, keep peace at home, defend the nation, support the common good, or protect liberty.
3	How does dividing power among three parts of government help people?	It helps prevent one person from controlling everything and guards against unfair use of power.
4	What are two ways the Constitution protects people?	It places limits on government and lists important rights in its amendments.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighborhood needs a council to settle arguments and keep shared spaces safe. The council could make rules, while a different group checks that the rules are fair. Everyone should be allowed to share ideas respectfully.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage for Part 2. For Your Turn, accept different reasonable community needs, power limits, and protected rights if all three parts are included in exactly three sentences.