

# Florida's Rulebook

Read how a written Constitution guides Florida's government.

**SS.4.CG.1.1** "Explain why the Florida government has a written Constitution."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details that tell what Florida's written Constitution does. Circle two details that explain why having it in writing helps Florida.

### A Written Plan for Florida

- ① Florida has a written Constitution, a plan for how the state government works. It tells what the governor, lawmakers, and courts may do. It also explains how these parts of government work together. Because the plan is written down, officials and people can look at the same words when they need to understand a government job or decision.
- ② A written Constitution also sets limits. A state official cannot simply make up a new power because it seems useful. Florida's Constitution protects important rights, including rights connected to speech, religion, and fair treatment. Written limits help prevent one part of government from becoming too powerful. They give people a way to question actions that do not follow the Constitution.
- ③ Written words can guide Florida through disagreements and changes. If leaders disagree about a state rule, they can check the Constitution. The Constitution includes ways to make amendments, or approved changes, when people believe a change is needed. This helps the government adapt while keeping a clear set of rules. A written Constitution gives Florida a shared foundation for government.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Why is it useful for officials and people to have the government plan written down?

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**2** Why does Florida's Constitution set limits on state officials?

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**3** How can a written Constitution help when leaders disagree about a state rule?

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**4** Why are amendment rules an important part of a written Constitution?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine a new town is creating its own government. Write exactly three sentences explaining why the town needs a written constitution. Include a government job, a right, or a fair way to change a rule.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline two details that tell what Florida's written Constitution does. Circle two details that explain why having it in writing helps Florida. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                            | ANSWER                                                                                                                |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Why is it useful for officials and people to have the government plan written down? | <b>They can look at the same words to understand a government job or decision.</b>                                    |
| 2 | Why does Florida's Constitution set limits on state officials?                      | <b>Limits prevent one part of government from becoming too powerful and stop officials from making up new powers.</b> |
| 3 | How can a written Constitution help when leaders disagree about a state rule?       | <b>Leaders can check the Constitution for guidance.</b>                                                               |
| 4 | Why are amendment rules an important part of a written Constitution?                | <b>They allow the government to make approved changes when needed while keeping clear rules.</b>                      |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Our town needs a written constitution so everyone can check the rules. It would explain what the council may decide and protect residents' right to speak at meetings. It would also list how people can change a rule fairly.

Accept answers that explain that a written constitution guides government, limits power, protects rights, settles disagreements, or provides a process for changes. For the open response, accept any exactly three-sentence explanation that includes at least one required detail.