

Constitution Connections

Trace ideas from the U.S. Constitution to Florida's Constitution.

SS.5.CG.3.5 "Explain how the U.S. Constitution influenced the Florida Constitution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how the U.S. Constitution influenced Florida's Constitution. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence.

A National Model for Florida

- ① When Florida adopted its current constitution in 1968, its writers looked to the U.S. Constitution as an important model. Both documents set up a government that gets its power from the people. Both divide government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. This division gives different jobs to different groups, so no one branch should hold all power.
- ② Florida's Constitution creates a Legislature with a Senate and House of Representatives, like Congress. It gives the governor executive duties, like the U.S. president's role. It also creates courts to apply laws and decide cases. These matching structures show that Florida used the national plan of separated powers while making a state government. State leaders can focus on Florida needs, but they still follow this basic constitutional design.
- ③ The U.S. Constitution includes a Bill of Rights that protects important freedoms. Florida's Constitution also has a Declaration of Rights. In addition, both documents can be changed by amendments, although each has its own steps. These similarities do not mean the documents are identical. Florida's Constitution is for the state, and the U.S. Constitution is for the whole nation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What idea about the source of government power appears in both constitutions?

2 How does dividing government into three branches help prevent one group from having all power?

3 Name two parts of Florida's government that are like parts of the national government.

4 Why are the Florida and U.S. Constitutions similar but not identical?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how one feature of the U.S. Constitution influenced Florida's Constitution. Name the feature, describe the Florida version, and explain what the similarity shows.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how the U.S. Constitution influenced Florida's Constitution. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 so you can use them as evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea about the source of government power appears in both constitutions?	Both constitutions say that government gets its power from the people.
2	How does dividing government into three branches help prevent one group from having all power?	The branches have different jobs, so power is divided among different groups instead of being held by one branch.
3	Name two parts of Florida's government that are like parts of the national government.	Answers may include Florida's Legislature with a Senate and House of Representatives like Congress, the governor's executive duties like the president's role, or courts that apply laws and decide cases.
4	Why are the Florida and U.S. Constitutions similar but not identical?	Florida used the national Constitution as a model, but Florida's Constitution governs one state and the U.S. Constitution governs the whole nation. They also have their own amendment steps.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The U.S. Constitution divides national power among three branches. Florida's Constitution uses legislative, executive, and judicial branches for state government. This structure limits the power of one branch and shows that the national Constitution influenced Florida's plan.

Accept any accurate feature from the passage, including separated branches, a legislature with two houses, executive leadership, courts, rights, or amendments. The response should name a U.S. feature, connect it to Florida, and explain that Florida used the national Constitution as a model.