# Sections of the U.S. Constitution

Unit 3: We the People

Concept: Balance

## Three Sections

- Preamble
- Articles
- Amendments

# Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

 Purpose of the Preamble: Show the limitations of the government

Goals of the Preamble:

- Creates the Legislative Branch
- Make laws
- "The People's Branch" (strongest branch)
- Bicameral
  - **■**Senate
  - House of Representatives

- Created the Executive Branch
- Enforce laws
- Weakest Branch
- President, V.P., law enforcement agencies

- Created Judicial Branch
- Interpret (review) laws
  - Are the laws Constitutional (fair)
  - Marbury v Madison
- Court system

- Responsibilities and duties of the states
- Full Faith and Credit Clause
  - States have to respect each others laws and procedures
- Admittance of new states

- An amendment is proposed:
- 1. 2/3 vote by entire Congress
- 2. Constitutional
   Convention called for by two-thirds of the
   State legislatures

- Amendments are ratified
- 1. ¾ of state legislators
- 2. ratifying conventions in ¾ of states (21st amendment is only one)

- Contains Supremacy Clause: Federal law is highest law of land
- Forbids a religious test to hold office
- Treaties
- Holds U.S. responsible for its debts

- Ratification of the Constitution
- **→** 9/13 states