

Name: _____

Citizenship and Government Study Guide

SS5CG1 Explain how a citizen's rights are protected under the U.S. Constitution.

- Explain the responsibilities of a citizen.
- Explain the concept of due process of law and describe how the U.S. Constitution protects a citizen's rights by due process.

Rights of a United States Citizen	Responsibilities of a United States Citizen
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote• Join groups of your choice• Express opinions freely• Practice religion of choice• Have a fair trial• Own property and businesses• Not be discriminated against in jobs and housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate yourself• Respect others• Help in your community• Set a good example• Vote• Obey laws• Pay taxes• Serve on juries

Due Process of Law is the idea that the government must go through a series of legal procedures before it can take away our "life, liberty, or property." The government must do things like put us on trial and convict us of crimes before it can take away our life (execute us), our liberty (put us in jail), or our property (fine us or remove our property). If the government did not have to follow due process, it could simply take away our rights at any time. The government could put us in jail without trial for something like speaking out against its policies. Without due process, it would be too easy for the government to take away our rights even though those rights are specifically guaranteed by the Constitution.

SS5CG2 Explain the process by which amendments to the U.S. Constitution are made.

- Explain the amendment process outlined in the Constitution.
- Describe the purpose for the amendment process.

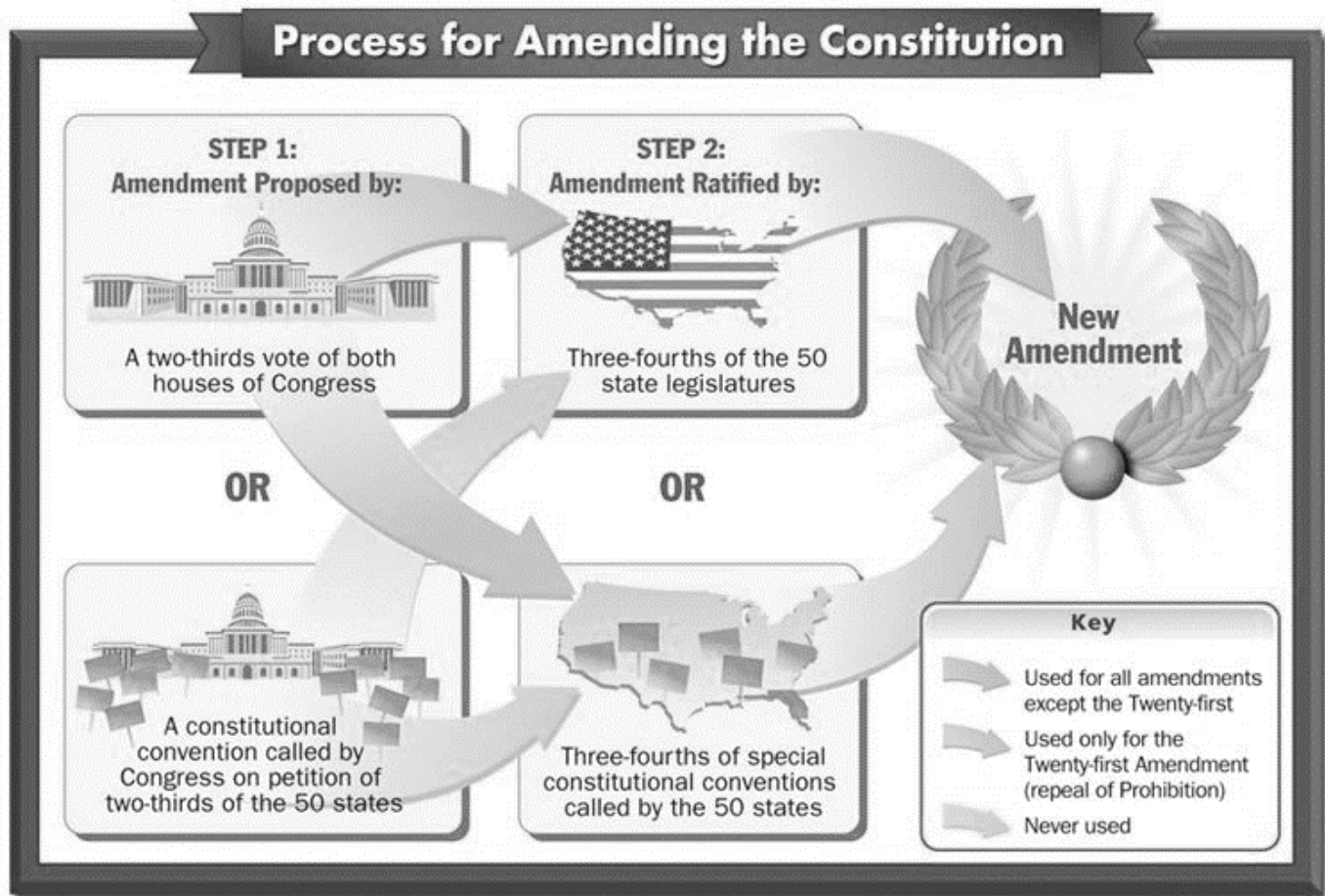
It takes two steps to add an amendment to the Constitution:

Step 1: Proposal - An amendment can be proposed by either a two-thirds vote in Congress, including both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or a national convention made up of two-thirds of the states. All our current amendments were proposed by Congress.

Step 2: Ratification - Next, the amendment must be ratified. It can be ratified by either three-fourths of the state legislatures or by state conventions in three-fourths of the states. Only the 21st amendment used the state convention method.

The amendment process was included in the Constitution so that the Constitution can change and update with time.

I. The Amendment Process



SS5CG3 Explain how amendments to the U. S. Constitution have maintained a representative democracy/republic.
a. Explain how voting rights are protected by the 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th amendments.

The United States has a representative, rather than direct, democracy, and citizens are responsible for electing representatives to government.

15th Amendment- Gave all men the right to vote regardless of race, color, or whether they had been slaves.

19th Amendment- Women have the right to vote.