ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Seven Articles, Match, Sort - Grades 6-8

7 ARTICLES

25 STUDENT PAGES


My name _____ Date _____

Match the Job

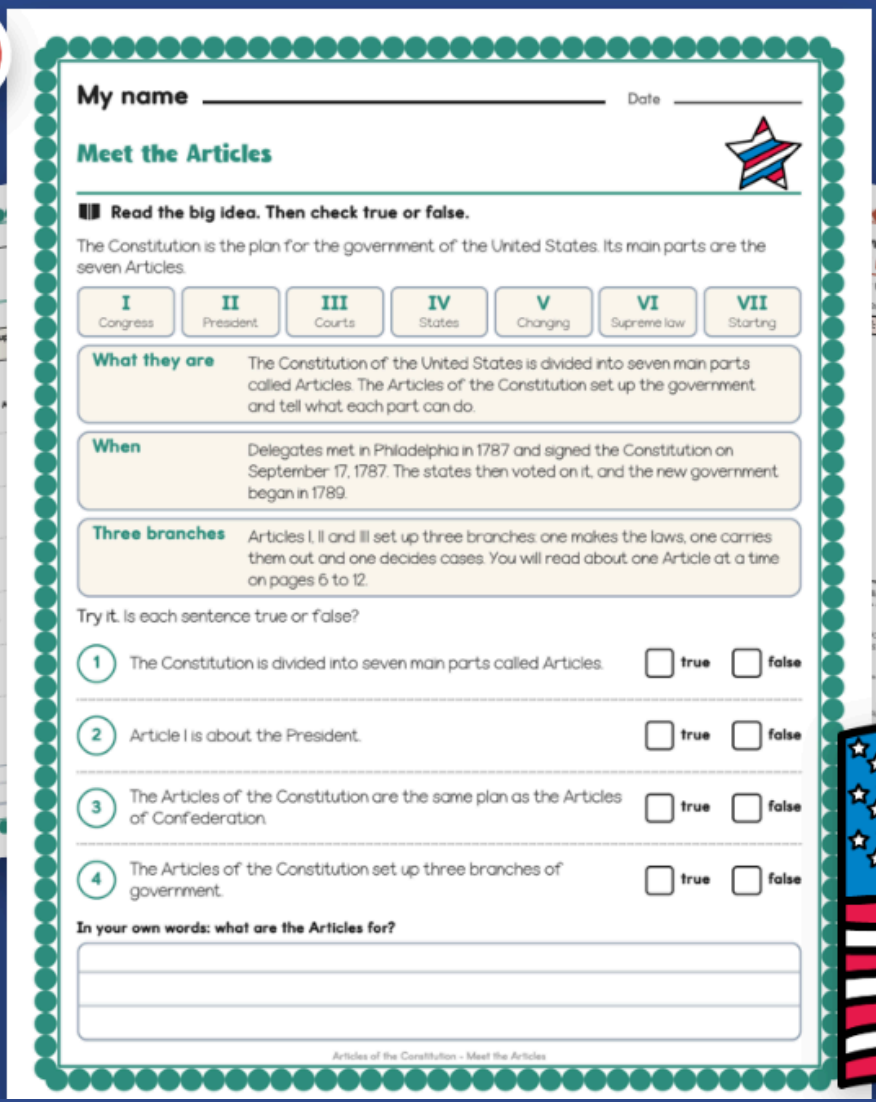
Write the Article number for each job.

I Congress | II President | III Courts | IV States | V Changing | VI Supreme law | VII Starting

Each Article is used once. Write the number, like I or VI.

1. Says how new states can join the country.
2. Says how many states had to approve the plan before it began.
3. Gives the power to make laws to the House and the Senate.
4. Explains how to amend the Constitution.
5. Sets up a Supreme Court and lets Congress set up lower courts.
6. Says the Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
7. Makes the President the head of the executive branch.

Pick one job. How did you know which Article it is?


My name _____ Date _____

Meet the Articles

Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

The Constitution is the plan for the government of the United States. Its main parts are the seven Articles.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Congress	President	Courts	States	Changing	Supreme law	Starting

What they are — The Constitution of the United States is divided into seven main parts called Articles. The Articles of the Constitution set up the government and tell what each part can do.

When — Delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787 and signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. The states then voted on it, and the new government began in 1789.

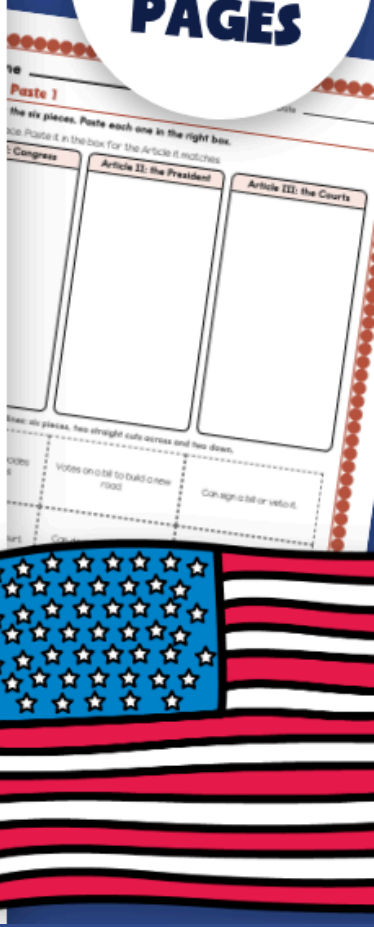
Three branches — Articles I, II and III set up three branches: one makes the laws, one carries them out and one decides cases. You will read about one Article at a time on pages 6 to 12.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. The Constitution is divided into seven main parts called Articles. ☐ true ☐ false
2. Article I is about the President. ☐ true ☐ false
3. The Articles of the Constitution are the same plan as the Articles of Confederation. ☐ true ☐ false
4. The Articles of the Constitution set up three branches of government. ☐ true ☐ false

In your own words: what are the Articles for?

Articles of the Constitution - Meet the Articles


Paste 1

the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

box. Paste it in the box for the Article it matches.

Congress | Article II: the President | Article III: the Courts

lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Votes on a bill to build a new road. | Can sign a bill or veto it.

Bright Path Sped

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Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter, an Article number or a word. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the own-words and example boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** One Article in a short passage, two ruled boxes and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Meet, Key Terms	2 sheets, 12 items	True or false on the big idea; match eight terms to their meanings.
7 Article Readings	14 checks	Read one Article, say it in your own words, give an example, answer two checks with a letter.
Match, Chart, Which Article?	4 sheets, 21 items	Match seven jobs to Articles; fill the three-branch chart; name the Article each example shows.
True or False, Case Study	2 sheets, 9 items	Check facts; match three groups in an invented school to the Articles.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	6 questions, 2 organizer sheets	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (the three branches, Articles IV to VII, a job of Congress or not).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 30 to 33.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one Article in plain words. It is not a complete history, it does not quote the Constitution, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook or a copy of the Constitution for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Own-words boxes, short answers, the case study and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Meet the Articles



Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

The Constitution is the plan for the government of the United States. Its main parts are the seven Articles.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Congress	President	Courts	States	Changing	Supreme law	Starting

What they are	The Constitution of the United States is divided into seven main parts called Articles. The Articles of the Constitution set up the government and tell what each part can do.
When	Delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787 and signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. The states then voted on it, and the new government began in 1789.
Three branches	Articles I, II and III set up three branches: one makes the laws, one carries them out and one decides cases. You will read about one Article at a time on pages 6 to 12.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. The Constitution is divided into seven main parts called Articles. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
2. Article I is about the President. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
3. The Articles of the Constitution are the same plan as the Articles of Confederation. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
4. The Articles of the Constitution set up three branches of government. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**

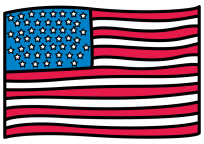
In your own words: what are the Articles for?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Article II: The President Carries Out the Laws



Read about the Article. Then say it in your own words.

> Article II sets up the executive branch, led by the President.
> Article II of the 7 Articles of the Constitution

Article II sets up the executive branch. The executive branch carries out, or enforces, the laws that Congress makes. At the head of this branch is the President, with a Vice President to help. The Article names the President commander in chief of the armed forces. It also gives the President other jobs, such as meeting with leaders of other countries and choosing people for important posts. Some of these choices need the approval of the Senate, which is one way the branches keep an eye on each other. The President also has a say in lawmaking. When Congress passes a bill, the President can sign it or veto it, which means saying no. Congress can still pass the bill into law if enough of its members vote for it again. The delegates wanted a leader strong enough to get things done but not strong enough to rule alone.

Say it in your own words: what is this Article for?

Where could you see this job at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Who is commander in chief of the armed forces? ☐
   - **A** The Senate
   - **B** The President
   - **C** The Supreme Court

2. What does a veto do? ☐
   - **A** It says no to a bill
   - **B** It makes a bill a law
   - **C** It starts a court case

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Article IV: The States and the Nation



Read about the Article. Then say it in your own words.

> Article IV is about how the states work with each other.
> Article IV of the 7 Articles of the Constitution

Article IV is about how the states get along with each other and with the nation. It says each state must respect the public acts, records and court decisions of the other states. For example, an official record made in one state is honored in another. The Article also says that Congress can let new states join the country. The first thirteen states were joined by others over time. The national government promises to protect the states and to guarantee each one a government in which the people have a voice. This Article balances the power of the states and the power of the nation. The delegates had seen the states argue over trade and borders under the Articles of Confederation, so they wrote rules to help the states work together as one country.

Say it in your own words: what is this Article for?

Where could you see this job at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What can Congress do about new states? ☐
   - **A** Let them join the country
   - **B** Stop them from forming
   - **C** Choose their governors

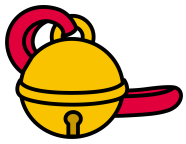
2. Article IV asks each state to respect what? ☐
   - **A** The size of other states' armies
   - **B** The records and court decisions of other states
   - **C** The names of other states' towns

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Article VI: The Supreme Law of the Land



Read about the Article. Then say it in your own words.

> Article VI says the Constitution is the supreme law.
> Article VI of the 7 Articles of the Constitution

Article VI says what happens when laws disagree. It states that the Constitution, the laws Congress makes under it, and the treaties of the nation are the supreme law of the land. Supreme means highest. If a state law clashes with the Constitution or a national law, the national law comes first, and judges in every state must follow it. This is one way the delegates fixed a weakness of the Articles of Confederation, when each state could often ignore the national government. The Article also says that officials in the national and state governments must promise to support the Constitution. Together, these rules keep the country from having thirteen different sets of top rules. The Constitution stays at the top, and every other law has to fit with it.

Say it in your own words: what is this Article for?

Where could you see this job at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

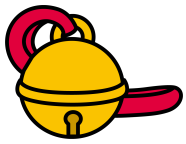
1. What does supreme law of the land mean? ☐
   - **A** It only applies in one state
   - **B** It outranks other laws
   - **C** It is the oldest law

2. If a state law clashes with the Constitution, which comes first? ☐
   - **A** The Constitution
   - **B** The state law
   - **C** Whichever is newer

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Key Terms

Write the letter of each meaning.

1	veto		A	to approve officially so something can begin
2	executive		B	having to do with courts and deciding cases
3	ratify		C	a group of states that left the country
4	legislative		D	having to do with making laws
5	federal		E	to change or add to a document
6	branch		F	an opening statement that tells why a document was written
7	amend		G	one of the main parts of a government
8	judicial		H	having to do with carrying out the laws
			I	having to do with the national government
			J	the power to say no to a bill

Two of the meanings are not used.

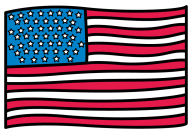
Use two of the words in one sentence about the Articles of the Constitution.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Three Branches



Fill in the chart. Use the word bank.

I	II	III	Congress	the President	the courts

Copy a word or number from the bank into each box. Use each one once.

Branch	What it does	Article	Who is in it
Legislative branch	makes the laws		
Executive branch	carries out the laws		
Judicial branch	decides cases		

Pick one branch. How is its job different from another branch?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Which Article? B

Write the Article number for each one. Then tell how you know.

I Congress **II President** **III Courts** **IV States** **V Changing** **VI Supreme law** **VII Starting**

Which Article does each one match? Write the number, like I or VI.

5. A league's rulebook says a change needs a big vote and then approval from three-fourths of its member teams. **Article** ____

6. Town leaders learn that when a town rule and a national law disagree, the national law comes first. **Article** ____

7. A new plan for a thirteen-team league begins once nine of the thirteen teams approve it. **Article** ____

8. Members of two groups each vote on a bill before it can go to the President. **Article** ____

Pick one. How do you know which Article it matches?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Case Study: Pine Hill School



Read the story. Match each group. Then write.

> Pine Hill School is writing a plan for its student government. The plan has three groups. The Rules Group writes the school's new rules after a vote. The Principal's Team makes sure the new rules are carried out. The Review Panel listens when two students disagree about a rule and decides what it means. Each group has its own job, so no one group does everything.
> AN INVENTED SCHOOL, MADE UP FOR THIS PAGE.

1. The Rules Group is most like Article number: ____

2. The Principal's Team is most like Article number: ____

3. The Review Panel is most like Article number: ____

4. Why is it good that the Rules Group does not also decide every dispute?

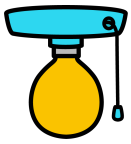
5. Which group do you think has the hardest job? Give a reason.

6. Make up a rule for Pine Hill School. Tell which group would write it, which would carry it out and which would settle a disagreement about it.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning



Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Which Article matters most for keeping a government fair?
Pick one Article from the readings, pages 6 to 12.

I believe Article ____ matters most. The reading says ____. This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Which Article do you pick?

Evidence: What does the reading say about it? Give two facts.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the Article it matches.

Article I: Congress	Article II: the President	Article III: the Courts

PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Hears a case and decides what a law means.	Votes on a bill to build a new road.	Can sign a bill or veto it.
Includes the Supreme Court.	Can declare war and coin money.	Is commander in chief of the armed forces.

Which piece was hardest to place? Why?

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 3

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Congress makes the laws in Article I. Other branches have other jobs. Paste each piece in the right box.

A job of Congress	A job of another branch

PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Commands the armed forces.	Collects taxes.	Decides a court case.
Regulates trade between the states.	Signs a bill into law.	Declares war.

Pick a piece from the right-hand box. Which branch does that job?

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part B

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

7 What are the two parts of Congress?

A The House and the Senate
B The President and the Vice President
C The courts and the states

8 Which Article says the Constitution is the supreme law of the land?

A Article II
B Article VI
C Article IV

9 How many states had to approve the Constitution before it began?

A All thirteen
B Three of the thirteen
C Nine of the thirteen

10 Which Article is about how the states work with each other and how new states join?

A Article IV
B Article VII
C Article III

11 Which pair is matched correctly?

A Article I and the courts
B Article III and Congress
C Article II and the President

12 Which branch decides cases in court?

A The legislative branch
B The executive branch
C The judicial branch

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Reading and Words

Meet the Articles, the 14 checks that follow the readings, and Key Terms.

Readings: the checks pages 6 to 12

#	Article	Answer
1	I: Congress	B: The House and the Senate
2	I: Congress	C: Collecting taxes
1	II: President	B: The President
2	II: President	A: It says no to a bill
1	III: Courts	B: One
2	III: Courts	C: Hear cases and decide how laws apply
1	IV: States	A: Let them join the country
2	IV: States	B: The records and court decisions of other states
1	V: Changing	B: To change or add to
2	V: Changing	C: Three-fourths
1	VI: Supreme law	B: It outranks other laws
2	VI: Supreme law	A: The Constitution
1	VII: Starting	C: Nine
2	VII: Starting	A: 1788

Meet the Articles page 5

#	Starts with	Answer
1	The Constitution is divided into seven ...	True
2	Article I is about the President.	False
3	The Articles of the Constitution are ...	False
4	The Articles of the Constitution set ...	True

Key Terms page 13 (unused meanings: C and F)

#	Word	Letter
1	veto	J
2	executive	H
3	ratify	A
4	legislative	D
5	federal	I
6	branch	G
7	amend	E
8	judicial	B

How the checks were made

Every reading was written so each check has one best answer that is stated in the passage. If a student picks another letter, point to the sentence that settles it.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Quiz, Written, Sorts

The quiz, the short answers and the three cut-and-paste mats.

Quiz pages 27, 28

#	Starts with	Answer
1	How many Articles does the …	B. Seven
2	Which Article sets up Congress?	C. Article I
3	Which branch carries out the …	B. The executive branch
4	Which Article sets up the …	A. Article III
5	What does it mean to …	C. To approve officially so something …
6	Which Article explains how to …	B. Article V
7	What are the two parts …	A. The House and the Senate
8	Which Article says the Constitution …	B. Article VI
9	How many states had to …	C. Nine of the thirteen
10	Which Article is about how …	A. Article IV
11	Which pair is matched correctly?	C. Article II and the President
12	Which branch decides cases in …	C. The judicial branch

Think It Through pages 20, 21

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	Why did the writers divide …	So no one person or group would hold all of the power. Each branch has its own job, and each can limit the others.
2	How is the job of …	Congress makes the laws. The President carries out, or enforces, the laws.
3	Why do you think the …	Open answer. Look for a reason tied to Article I, such as the people's voice in making laws through members from every state.
4	Why did the writers include …	They knew the country would change. The steps are hard on purpose, so a change needs wide agreement.
5	What does it mean that …	When a state law clashes with the Constitution or a national law, the Constitution and national law come first (Article VI).
6	Pick one Article. Explain its …	Open answer. Look for the right Article, its job in plain words, and one example.

Cut and Paste 1 page 24

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Hears a case and decides …	Article III: the Courts
r1 c2: Votes on a bill to …	Article I: Congress
r1 c3: Can sign a bill or …	Article II: the President
r2 c1: Includes the Supreme Court.	Article III: the Courts
r2 c2: Can declare war and coin …	Article I: Congress
r2 c3: Is commander in chief of …	Article II: the President

Cut and Paste 2 page 25

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: A state law that clashes …	Article VI: Supreme Law
r1 c2: New states can be admitted …	Article IV: The States
r1 c3: Nine of the thirteen states …	Article VII: Starting It
r2 c1: Needs a big vote, then …	Article V: Changing It
r2 c2: Officials promise to support the …	Article VI: Supreme Law
r2 c3: States respect each other's laws …	Article IV: The States

Cut and Paste 3 page 26

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Commands the armed forces.	A job of another branch
r1 c2: Collects taxes.	A job of Congress
r1 c3: Decides a court case.	A job of another branch
r2 c1: Regulates trade between the states.	A job of Congress
r2 c2: Signs a bill into law.	A job of another branch
r2 c3: Declares war.	A job of Congress

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. The box is named in the last column.

PREVIEW

Articles Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 38.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Meet the Articles	4			
6	Article I: Congress Makes the Laws	2			
7	Article II: The President Carries Out the Laws	2			
8	Article III: The Courts Decide Cases	2			
9	Article IV: The States and the Nation	2			
10	Article V: Changing the Constitution	2			
11	Article VI: The Supreme Law of the Land	2			
12	Article VII: Starting the New Plan	2			
13	Key Terms	8			
14	Match the Job	7			
15	The Three Branches	6			
16	Which Article? A	4			
17	Which Article? B	4			
18	True or False?	6			
19	Case Study: Pine Hill School	3			
24	Cut and Paste 1	6			
25	Cut and Paste 2	6			
26	Cut and Paste 3	6			
27	Quiz, Part A	6			
28	Quiz, Part B	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 86 items on the 20 scored sheets. Answer keys: pages 30 to 33. Filled example: page 38.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Meet the Articles			
Article readings			
Key terms			
Match, chart, which Article			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Said the job of ___ of the 7 Articles in their own words without a prompt.
- Matched ___ of ___ jobs to the right Article (page 14).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (22, 23): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Named the three branches and what each one does: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Key Terms with no prompt on 9/29. Next step: act out amend and ratify with an example from the readings." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 38.

PREVIEW

Eli's Tracker (Invented Student)

Eli M. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 34.

Student: Eli M. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Park (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Meet the Articles	4	3	9/22	Missed the Articles of Confederation item
6	Article I: Congress Makes the Laws	2	2	9/23	-
7	Article II: The President Carries Out the Laws	2	1	9/24	Missed the veto question
8	Article III: The Courts Decide Cases	2	-	-	-
9	Article IV: The States and the Nation	2	-	-	-
10	Article V: Changing the Constitution	2	-	-	-
11	Article VI: The Supreme Law of the Land	2	-	-	-
12	Article VII: Starting the New Plan	2	-	-	-
13	Key Terms	8	6	9/29	Mixed up amend and ratify
14	Match the Job	7	5	10/1	Mixed up Articles IV and VI
15	The Three Branches	6	-	-	-
16	Which Article? A	4	3	10/3	Mixed up Articles II and III
17	Which Article? B	4	-	-	-
18	True or False?	6	5	10/6	Marked one false sentence true
19	Case Study: Pine Hill School	3	-	-	-
24	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
26	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-
27	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
28	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-

How to read it

Eli M. has done **7 of 20** scored sheets and got **25 of 33** items right with no prompt. **1** sheet was all right and **6** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Article II: The President Carries Out the Laws (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 13 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

PREVIEW