

# LESSON 28

## The Constitution of Texas

- [www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us)
- [www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/constitution/index.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/constitution/index.html)

### SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

7 - 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

8 - 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30

### STAAR

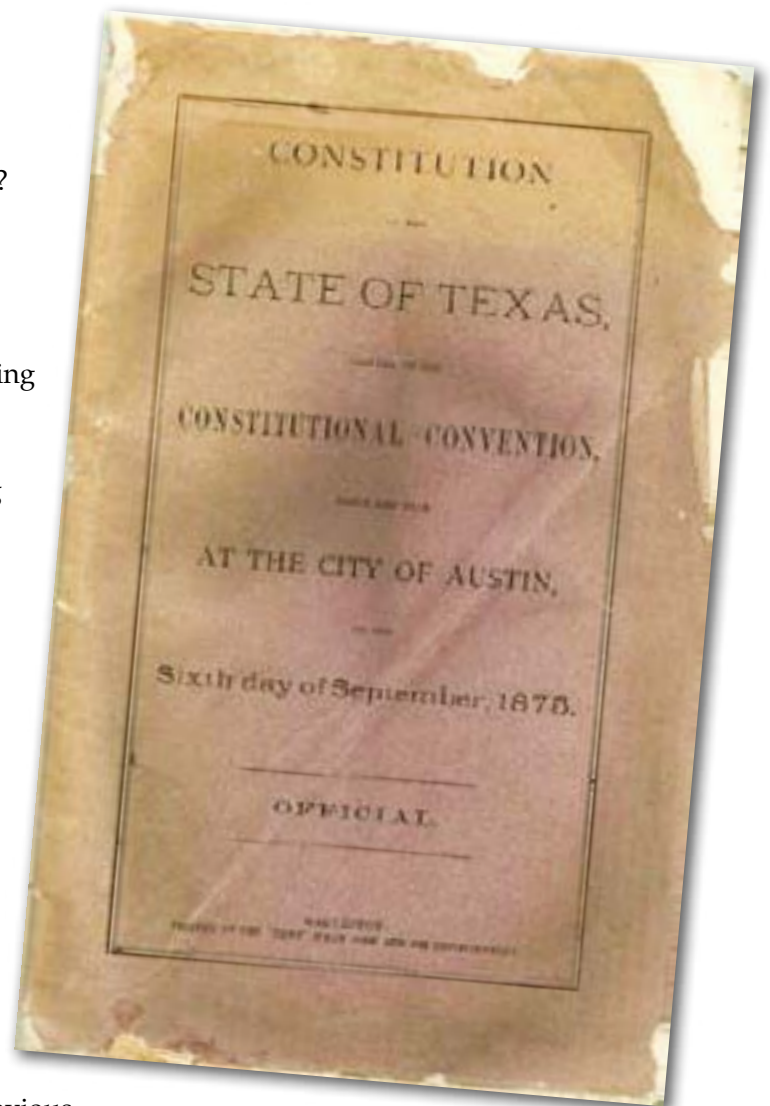
4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 3

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will answer these questions using “Constitution of Texas”:
  - a. When was the Texas Constitution adopted?
  - b. As of today, how many amendments have been added to the Texas Constitution?
  - c. Explain the two steps necessary to amend the Texas Constitution.
  - d. How can an amendment be submitted during a special session of the Legislature?
  - e. Can the governor reject an amendment?
  - f. Who makes the final decision of approving proposed amendments?
  - g. In what year was the greatest number of amendments submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature?
  - h. List the years in which only one amendment was submitted to voters by the Texas Legislature.
2. Using the list of articles and sections found on the website <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/>, or in previous Texas Almanacs, students will complete the **Texas Constitution Chart**. This may be done individually, in small groups, or as a whole-class activity.
3. Students will use the website, <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/> or previous Texas Almanacs to complete **Texas Bill of Rights**.
4. Students will use the website, <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/> or previous Texas Almanacs to complete **Articles of the Texas Constitution**.

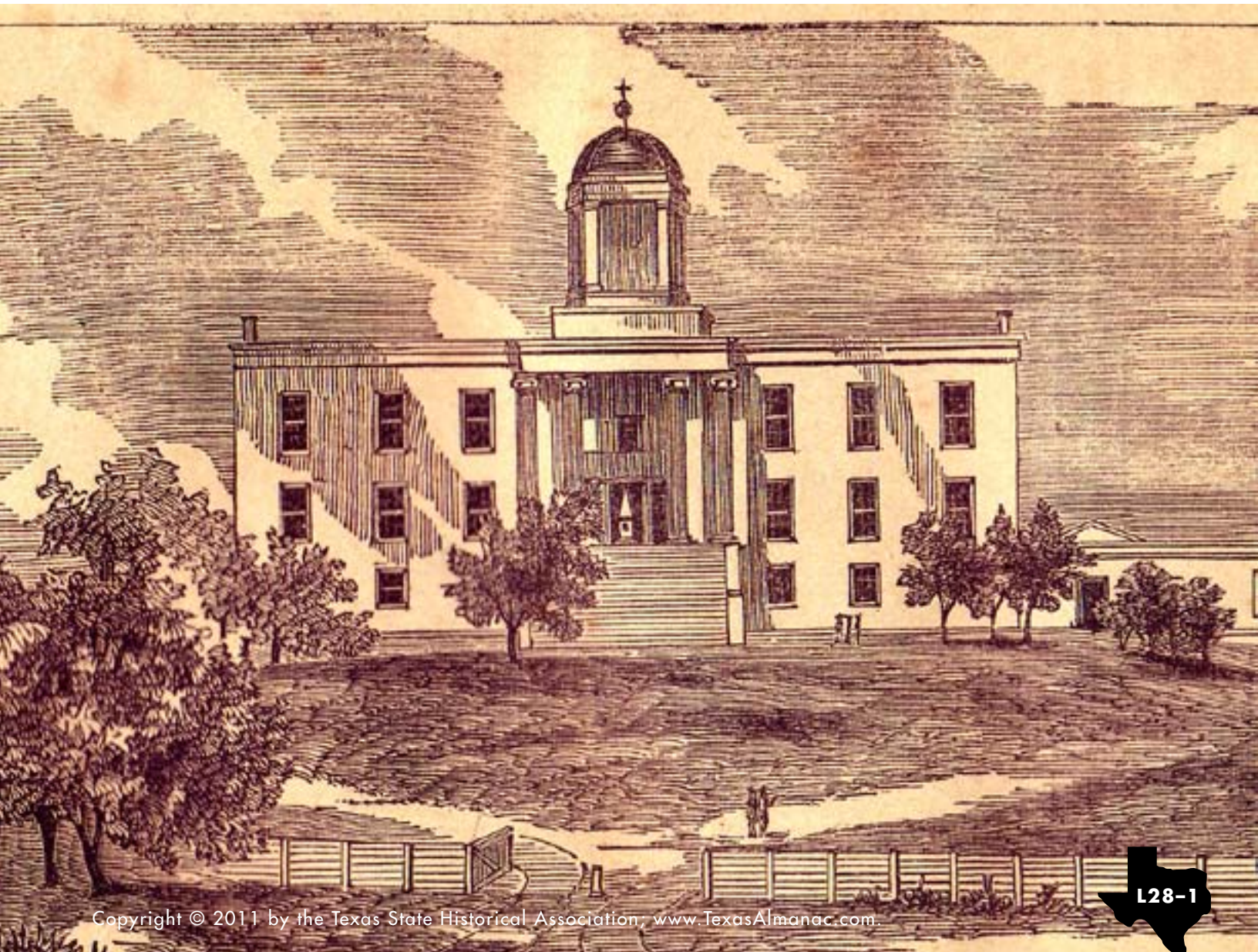


*An 1875 copy of the Constitution of Texas.*

## LESSON 28 — The Constitution of Texas

5. Students will use the website, <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/> or previous Texas Almanacs to complete **State Officials**.
6. Students will use the website, <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/> or previous Texas Almanacs to complete **Texas Voters**.
7. Students will play **Texas Bingo**. Each student will receive a Texas Bingo game card. From the **Texas Bingo Word List**, each student will select and write one term in each square on his/her game card. Students may not use a term more than once. The teacher will copy the **Texas Bingo Questions**, cut them into strips, and place them in a basket/box. Individual students will select and read a question. The teacher will call on a volunteer to answer each question. If a student has that answer on his/her game card, he/she will cover it in a pre-determined manner. The first student to “bingo” wins the game. The teacher may want to offer a prize to the winner. NOTE: The teacher should be able to lead more than one Texas Bingo game in a class period.

*A drawing of the State Capitol at Austin from the Texas Almanac 1858.*



## Texas Constitution Chart

TOPIC	ARTICLE	SECTION
Child Support		
Monuments		
Handicapped Persons, Rehabilitation Programs		
Prairie View A&M University, Establishment		
Bingo, Authorization of Games		
Special Session, Convened by Governor		
Witnesses, Counsel		
Railroad Commission, Composition		
Forest Service		
Grand Jury, Qualifications		

## Texas Bill of Rights

Match the section of Article I of the Texas Constitution with the right guaranteed in the Texas Bill of Rights.

**SECTION**

**RIGHT**

_____ Section 3	A. Speech and Press
_____ Section 6	B. Trial by Jury
_____ Section 8	C. Speedy Trial
_____ Section 9	D. Quartering Soldiers
_____ Section 10	E. Keep and Bear Arms
_____ Section 11	F. Religion
_____ Section 15	G. Assembly and Petition
_____ Section 18	H. Bail
_____ Section 23	I. Unreasonable Seizures and Searches
_____ Section 25	J. Suspension of Laws
_____ Section 27	K. Imprisonment for Debt
_____ Section 30	L. Equal Rights
	M. Crime Victims



# Articles of the Texas Constitution

Identify the topic discussed in each Article of the Texas Constitution.

Article I \_\_\_\_\_

Article II \_\_\_\_\_

Article III \_\_\_\_\_

Article IV \_\_\_\_\_

Article V \_\_\_\_\_

Article VI \_\_\_\_\_

Article VII \_\_\_\_\_

Article VIII \_\_\_\_\_

Article IX \_\_\_\_\_

Article X \_\_\_\_\_

Article XI \_\_\_\_\_

Article XII \_\_\_\_\_

Article XIII \_\_\_\_\_

Article XIV \_\_\_\_\_

Article XV \_\_\_\_\_

Article XVI \_\_\_\_\_

Article XVII \_\_\_\_\_



## State Officials

Using the Articles and Section(s) indicated, identify the qualifications that must be met to hold these elected state offices and indicate the term of office for each.

**Texas Senator — Article III, Section 3, Section 6**

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**Texas Representative — Article III, Section 4, Section 7**

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**Governor — Article IV, Section 4**

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**Justices of the Texas Supreme Court — Article V, Section 2**

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**Judges of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals — Article V, Section 4**

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# Texas Voters

Using Article VI, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 3a, determine the qualifications for Texas voters.

## Age

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## Citizenship

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## Residency

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## Registration

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According to this Article, how may someone be disqualified from voting in Texas?

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## Texas Bingo Questions

- The legislative branch \_\_\_\_\_ the laws.
- The executive branch \_\_\_\_\_ the laws.
- The judicial branch \_\_\_\_\_ the laws.
- The top official of the executive branch is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The leader of the Texas House of Representatives is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The leader of the Texas Senate is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The highest court in Texas for a criminal case is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The highest court in Texas for a civil case is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The capital city of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The current governor of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The State \_\_\_\_\_ meets every two years.
- The term of each State Representative is \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- The term of each State \_\_\_\_\_ is four years.
- The term of the Governor is \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ Representative must be at least twenty-one years old.
- A State Senator must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- The Governor must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
- The Texas House is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ members.
- The Texas Senate is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ members.
- The Governor is the only person allowed to call a \_\_\_\_\_ session.
- The Governor signs bills into \_\_\_\_\_.
- The State Seal is kept by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The head of the legal department for the State of Texas is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Texas Constitution contains \_\_\_\_\_ Articles.
- Article I discusses the Texas \_\_\_\_\_.
- Changes to the Texas Constitution are called \_\_\_\_\_.



## Texas Bingo Questions (continued)

- The introductory statement to the Texas Constitution is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The chief financial officer for the State of Texas is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- All amendments must be approved by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The voting age is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The right to vote is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- The right to trial by \_\_\_\_\_ is guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.
- The name of the building in which the State Legislature meets is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Each state has two Senators in the United States \_\_\_\_\_.
- The senior Senator from the State of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The junior Senator from the State of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Lieutenant Governor of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The majority party in Texas is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The minority party in Texas is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Texas has \_\_\_\_\_ Representatives in the United States House of Representatives.
- When one asks a higher court to review the decision in a case, it is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- When the Governor rejects a bill given to him to sign, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A veto may be overridden by a \_\_\_\_\_ vote of each house of the State Legislature.
- In order to vote, one must \_\_\_\_\_.
- State judges are \_\_\_\_\_ to their positions.
- The right to bear \_\_\_\_\_ is reflected by the concealed weapons law.
- Levying war against Texas would be considered \_\_\_\_\_.
- A quorum of the Texas House of Representatives is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A quorum of the Texas Senate is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Texas Bingo Word List

Makes	Amendments
Enforces	Preamble
Interprets	Comptroller
Governor	Voters
Speaker	Eighteen
Lieutenant Governor	Suffrage
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	Jury
Texas Supreme Court	Capitol
Austin	Congress
Rick Perry	Kay Bailey Hutchison
Legislature	John Cornyn
Two	David Dewhurst
Senator	Thirty-Two
Four	Appeal
State	Veto
Twenty-Six	Two-Thirds
Thirty	Register
One Hundred Fifty	Elected
Thirty-One	Arms
Special	Treason
Law	One Hundred
Secretary of State	Twenty-One
Attorney General	Republican
Seventeen	Democrat
Bill of Rights	

# Texas Bingo

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**E**

**X**

**A**

**S**