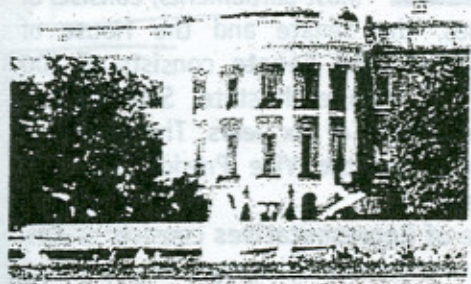


THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Constitution. The United States of America is a Federal Union of fifty states and the District of Columbia. The government of the whole country, the Federal government, works from Washington, the capital city. The Government of the United States is based on the Constitution, a set of rules describing how America must be governed. The Constitution of the U.S. was written about 200 years ago. The American system of government is a democracy. This means that all adults in America have certain equal rights. The first is the right to vote. In addition to the right to vote, Americans have many rights which safeguard their freedom. These are listed in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution also provides for three equal and independent branches of government. They are the legislative branch (the Congress); the executive branch (the President); and the judicial branch (the Supreme Court).

The President. The President of the U.S.A. is the head of the state, head of the government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. These days, the American President is one of the most powerful men in the world. The President's chief power and duty is to protect the Constitution and enforce the laws made by Congress. He may originate legislation which must then be approved by Congress. In times of emergency and in foreign affairs he can act on his own. A number of Secretaries, each in charge of a department, assist the President in the administration of the nation. The best known of these is the Secretary of State who deals with foreign affairs. The President is directly elected by the people every four years and can be re-elected only once. If the President dies or resigns, he is succeeded by the Vice President, who is also elected every four years by popular vote.



- 1 How many states make up the United States of America?
- 2 Why is Washington D.C. well known all over the world?
- 3 What is the American Constitution? When was it written?
- 4 What is the Bill of Rights? What does it guarantee to Americans?

- 1 What are the three branches of the U.S. Government?
- 2 What is the President of the U.S. besides being the head of the government?
- 3 Who elects the President of the U.S.? How many times can he be re-elected?
- 4 Who replaces the President of the U.S. if he dies or resigns his office?

1 The President of the United States of America lives in the White House in Washington, D.C. (Who/where)

- 2 Presidential elections in the U.S. take place every four years. (How often/when)
- 3 The U.S. is a Federal Union of 50 states plus the District of Columbia. (How many/what)
- 4 The Government of the U.S. is based on the Constitution which was written 200 years ago. (How old/when)

The American Constitution is the oldest constitution in the world. It was written 5 centuries ago.

According to the American Constitution all citizens enjoy some basic rights and individual liberties.

The President of the U.S. is one of the most important men in the world.

In the U.S. the President and the Vice President are elected by Congress.

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