**Section 1**

This Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws (also known as acts) for the United States. Congress will be the legislative branch of government. Congress will have two parts: A Senate and a House of Representatives.

**Section 2**

**Clause** 1: The members of the House of Representatives will be elected every two years. The people in the states shall elect them. The right to vote for representatives will be given to the people in each state who have the right to vote for state lawmakers in the state’s larger Legislative House.

**Clause** 2: A representative to Congress must be 25 years old or older and be a citizen for at least seven years. He must live in the state that elects him.

**Clause** 3: States with more people will have more representatives.

**Clause** 4: When a representative of a state dies, or resigns or is removed from office, the governor of that state shall call for an election. The people can elect a new representative.

**Clause** 5: The representatives in the House of Representatives will choose a leader, called a Speaker. They will choose other officers for themselves. The House of Representatives has the power to accuse their members of crimes. Only the Representatives in the House of Representatives may remove one of their members.

**Section 5**

**Clause** 1: The Senate and The House of Representatives shall judge if their own members are qualified and if they have been properly elected. In order to pass a law or do business, more than half of a house must be present. Members may require absent members to come to the meeting. Each house may set up a system of penalties for members who do not come to work.

**Clause** 2: Each house can decide how they want to do their work. They can make rules for behavior, and punish members for bad behavior. If two thirds of the members of a house agree, they can expel (kick out) a member.

**Section 3**

**Clause** 1: The Senate will have two senators from each state. Each senator will have one vote.

**Clause** 2: The first group of senators who are elected will not all serve for six years. After the election, they will be divided as equally as possible into three groups: The first group of senators will serve just two years. The second group of senators will serve four years. The third group of senators will serve six years. That way, in the future, every two years, one third of all the senators will be chosen. After that, all senators will be elected for a term of six years.

**Clause** 3: A person must be at least 30 years old to be a senator. The person must have been a citizen of the United States for nine years. He must live in the state where he is elected senator.

**Clause** 4: The vice president of the United States shall be president of the senate. He shall not vote, except when there is an equal number of Yes votes and No votes.)

**Clause** 5: The Senate shall choose other officers. They shall choose a person to be in charge of the meetings when the vice president is not there. (That person is called the president *pro tempore [for* *a time].*) The president *pro tempore* will preside over the senate when the vice president is absent, or when the vice president is acting as president of the United States

**Clause** 6: The Senate shall act as a jury to try all impeachments (accusations against a president, judge, etc.) The Senate will listen to the facts and arguments and make decisions. When the senators are trying an impeachment, they shall promise that they will do this job (trial of an impeachment) carefully and honestly. The Chief Justice will preside over the Senate if the person who is impeached is the president of the United States. Two thirds of the senators who are present must agree in order to convict a person who is impeached.

**Section 7**

**Clause** 1: Bills for raising taxes shall be started in the House of Representatives. The Senate may propose amendments or agree with the house’s bill just as it does on other bills.

***The rest of Section 7 explains how a bill becomes a law, which we will learn separately.***

**Section 8 - The Powers of Congress (Enumerated/Delegated Powers)**

**Clause 1:** Congress has the power to decide what taxes to create. All such taxes shall be the same in all places in the U.S.

**Clause 2:** Congress may borrow money on the credit of the United States.

**Clause** 3: Congress may make rules about trading with foreign countries. They may make rules about trading among the states and with the Indian tribes. (This is called *regulating interstate trade)*

**Clause** 4: Congress shall set up rules for immigrants to become naturalized citizens: these rules will be the same in every state.

**Clause** 5: Congress has the power to coin money. They have the power to decide the value of the coins and the value of foreign coins compared to American coins.

**Clause** 7: Congress shall create post offices and special post roads.

**Clause** 8: Congress shall promote science and useful arts by *giving copyrights to authors and patents to inventors*. This will give authors and inventors the rights to their own writings and discoveries or inventions for a limited period of time, and prevent others from using them without payment for that period of time.

**Clause** 9. Congress shall set up the courts lower than the Supreme Court.

**Clause** 10. Congress shall make laws about piracy and punish pirates (people who steal things from ships on the oceans,) and punish people who break international law.

**Clause** 11. Congress has the power to declare war.

**Clause** 12. Congress has the power to raise and pay for armies.

**Clause** 13. Congress shall have the power to create and pay for a navy.

**Clause** 18. Congress shall have the power to make all the laws that are needed and suitable to carry out the powers that we just mentioned and for all the other powers that this Constitution gives the government or any part of it. *(This is known as the necessary and proper clause)*