Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Constitutional Amendment Process Activity*

We are going to perform a simulation to try to mimic the Amendment process, in order to gain understanding about how the process works.

Amendment Idea: Rename America the “United States of the Earth”

**Directions:** Each group will be made up of 2 people. In stage 1, the 1st person will represent The House of Representatives, and the 2nd person will represent The United States Senate. In stage 2, each person will represent the individual states of the United States.

**Stage 1**

**Activity:**

Each group will receive a single die. The person who is respresenting the House of Representatives will roll the die 3 times. If the die shows an even number (2, 4, or 6) on 2/3 rolls, then he/she should mark the “Proposed” box below. If the die does not show an even number on 2/3 rolls, then he/she should mark the “Not Proposed” box below.

Not Proposed

Proposed

Next the person representing the Senate should roll the die 3 times. If the die shows an odd number (1, 3, or 5) on 2/3 rolls, then he/she should mark the “Proposed” box below. If the die does not show an odd number on 2/3 rolls, then he/she should mark the “Not Proposed” box below.

Not Proposed

Proposed

Why did each person need to roll an odd/even number 2/3 times to mark the “Proposed” box? aaaaaaaaaaaaa*\*\*Think about what we’ve learned about the Amendment Process\*\**

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Would this Amendment have been successfully proposed? Explain why/why not.

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**Stage 2**

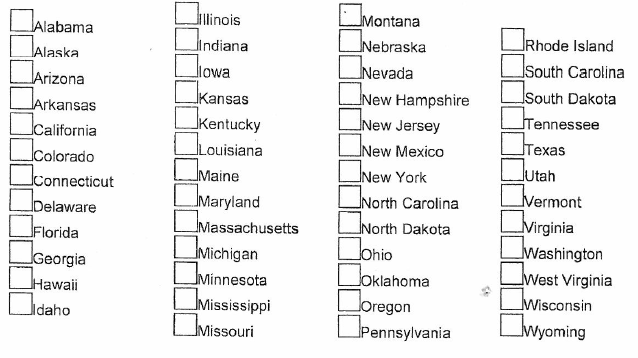
After an Amendment has been proposed, what is the next step before it can become part of the Constitution?

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*\*\*Regardless of whether your group successfully proposed the Amendment, each team will complete Stage 2\*\**

**Activity:**

Each group will have 2 coins. Each member of the group now represents 25 of the 50 states. Each person will flip his/her coin 1 time for each state. A heads result will serve as a vote in favor of ratifying the Amendment, and a tails result will serve as a vote against ratifying the Amendment. For each vote in favor of ratification, mark a check by that state below.



Add up the number of states that ratified this Amendment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Take the number of states that voted in favor of ratification over the total number of states:

Ratified----------------

----------------Total

What **percentage** of states need to ratify a proposed Amendment for it to become part of the Constitution?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did this Amendment receive enough votes for ratification? Explain your answer by mathematically converting the fraction above to a percentage.

Thought Questions

1. Were you able to successfully propose this amendment? What would the percentage of votes in each house of Congress have been?

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1. How many groups in the class were successful in BOTH proposing & ratifying the amendment?

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1. How does this 2-step process uphold the constitutional principle of federalism?

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1. Explain why (using examples from this activity) you think the Framers made this process so difficult.

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