



West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia

Section 1: A History of West Virginia Government

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The first [West Virginia constitution], which took effect in _____, provided the guidelines under which the new state's _____ was created.
2. The second, written in 1872, has been in effect for over _____ years.
3. In _____, the Constitution states, "The state of West Virginia is, and shall remain, one of the United States of America. The Constitution of the United States of America, and the laws and treaties made in pursuance thereof, shall be the _____ law of the land."
4. West Virginia's Constitution, however, did not have a _____ until 1960.
5. The preamble to the West Virginia Constitution demonstrates the principle of _____ when it states: "we, the people of West Virginia, in and through the provisions of this Constitution, . . ."
6. The West Virginia Constitution limits the power of _____ to the powers granted to it by the _____.
7. The principle of _____ of powers is based on the idea that too much power given to one person or a group of persons could threaten people's _____.
8. The powers of West Virginia's government are divided among the _____, _____, and _____ branches.
9. To keep any one branch from getting too powerful, the West Virginia Constitution, like the United States Constitution, created a system of _____ and _____.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Class:** _____

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10. The West Virginia Constitution may be _____ in one of two ways.
11. If a majority of the voters _____ the amendment, it becomes a part of the State Constitution and is in force from the time of the _____.
12. One [amendment], passed in 2000, established a _____ court system.