Legislative Powers of Congress
in the U.S. Constitution

Directions
Read the following primary source and answer the critical thinking questions.

Article I, Section 1 All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Article I, Section 8 The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the
Authority of training the Militia according to the
discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases
whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten
Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular
States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become
the Seat of the Government of the United States,
and to exercise like Authority over all Places pur-
chased by the Consent of the Legislature of the
State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection
of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and
other needful Buildings; — And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and
proper for carrying into Execution the forego-
ing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this
Constitution in the Government of the United
States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article I, Section 9 The Migration or
Importation of such Persons as any of the States
now existing shall think proper to admit, shall
not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the
Year one thousand eight hundred and eight,
but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such
Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each
Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus
shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases
of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may
require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be
passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be
laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or
Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported
from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation
of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one
State over those of another: nor shall Vessels
bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter,
clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but
in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law;
and a regular Statement and Account of the
Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money
shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the
United States: And no Person holding any Office
of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the
Consent of the Congress, accept of any present,
Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatev-
er, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Article VI

. . . This Constitution, and the Laws of the United
States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof;
and all Treaties made, or which shall be made,
under the Authority of the United States, shall
be the supreme Law of the Land . . .
CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the important powers of Congress in Article I, Section 8?
2. What powers was Congress restricted from exercising in Article I, Section 9?
3. What was the supremacy clause in Article VI?