

# The Texas Constitution of 1876 *Grade Level*

## Unit 9: Reconstruction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read each excerpt from the Texas Constitution of 1876 and determine which principles of the Constitution are represented by the excerpt. **Note:** One excerpt may represent one or more principles. Place a checkmark under the correct box or boxes for each principle. Two principles have been eliminated from each statement. Eliminated principles show: --

Excerpt from the Texas Constitution of 1876	Individual Rights	Federalism	Popular Sovereignty	Republicanism	Checks and Balances	Separation of Powers	Limited Government
"All <b>political power</b> is inherent in the <b>people</b> , and all free governments are founded on <b>their authority</b> , and instituted for <b>their benefit</b> ."	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
"The <b>powers of the government</b> of the State of Texas shall be <b>divided</b> into <b>three distinct departments</b> "	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
"Every <b>citizen</b> shall <b>have the right</b> to keep and bear arms in the lawful defense of himself or the State; but the <b>Legislature</b> shall have power by law to <b>regulate</b> the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime."	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
"[The governor] shall <b>cause the laws to be faithfully executed</b> ; and shall <b>conduct</b> , in person, or in such manner as shall be prescribed by law, all intercourse and <b>business</b> of the State with other States and with the United States."	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
"Every <b>person</b> shall be <b>at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions</b> on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege"	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<h2>Excerpt from the Texas Constitution of 1876</h2> <p><i>Highlight key words or phrases from the excerpt that provide evidence to support your choice of principle or principles.</i></p>	Individual Rights	Federalism	Popular Sovereignty	Republicanism	Checks and Balances	Separation of Powers	Limited Government
<p>“There shall be established <b>in each county</b> in this State a <b>County Court</b>, which shall be a court of record, and there shall be <b>elected</b> in each county, by <b>qualified voters</b>, a county <b>judge</b>, who shall be well informed of the law of the State”</p>	--			--	--		
<p>“<b>Impeachment</b> of the <b>governor</b>, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of the general land office, comptroller, and the judges of the <b>Supreme Court</b>, Court of Appeals, and District Court <b>shall be tried by the Senate</b>.”</p>		--		--			
<p>“All qualified <b>electors</b> of the State, as herein described, who shall have resided for six months immediately preceding an <b>election</b> within the limits of any city or corporate town, shall <b>have the right to vote</b> for mayor and all other <b>elective officers</b>”</p>				--			--
<p>“Texas is a <b>free and independent State</b>, subject only to the <b>Constitution of the United States</b>; and the maintenance of our free institutions and the perpetuity of the Union depend upon the <b>preservation of the right of local self-government</b> unimpaired to all the states.”</p>	--				--		
<p>“The <b>Legislature</b> shall <b>not have the right to levy taxes</b> or impose burdens upon the people, <b>except</b> to raise <b>revenue</b> sufficient for the economical administration of the government”</p>		--		--			