

The Amendments Project Worksheet – Answer Key

To complete this worksheet, go to <https://amendmentsproject.org/>.

1. Visit the **About** page (under the **Resources** menu) and answer the following:
 - a. What records make up the *Amendments Project* database?
 - Amendments that were formally proposed in Congress or were advanced in newspapers and pamphlets, party platforms, political conventions, presidential papers, and social media/the internet
 - b. About how many amendments have been proposed in Congress?
 - More than 11,000
 - c. How many amendments to the Constitution have been ratified?
 - 27
 - d. Other than by the ratification of an amendment, how else can the Constitution be altered?
 - “By changing meaning and shifting interpretation, especially that provided by decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court”
2. From the **Stories** page, read **The Child Labor Amendment** story and answer the following:
 - a. How many amendments have been approved by Congress but not yet ratified by enough states?
 - Six
 - b. Why was the Child Labor Amendment not ratified in the 1920s?
 - “The outsized influence of manufacturer interest, legal groups, and the Red Scare”
 - c. When and why did the Child Labor Amendment become obsolete?
 - “The Supreme Court... evolved its understanding of the commerce power which then allowed for the federal regulation of child labor rendering the CLA obsolete in 1937”
 - “While its obsolescence was only a hypothetical in 1937, it was tested with the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in 1938. The final version

of the now FLSA forbade the interstate shipment of goods that were produced using ‘oppressive child labor.’”

d. Why was *United States v. Darby* important?

- It upheld the FLSA, confirming that Congress has the power under the Commerce Clause to regulate employment conditions, including the use of child labor
- *Darby* and the CLA also “reinforced the Supreme Court’s position in the new order as final arbiter of constitutional interpretation on almost all questions”

e. If the Child Labor Amendment has been “informally adopted,” why is child labor on the rise in the United States?

- “The FLSA included an exemption for agricultural work” (a 1966 amendment only restricted children from working in agriculture outside of school hours), so “the widespread employment of migrant children across the United States is on the rise.”

3. From the **Stories** page, choose a **second story** to read and answer the following:

a. What trends or other information stand out from the graph/s in the story?

- Answers will vary

b. What is something you learned about why an amendment might be proposed or why a proposed amendment might fail?

- Answers will vary

c. What remaining questions do you have after reading this story?

- Answers will vary

4. Using the search tools on the **Search** page, answer the following:

a. What is one bill related to the story you just read?

- Answers will vary

b. How many online petitions related to campaign financing are in the database?

- 110, filtering by type and using the “search by topic” function (will get 5 if they filter by type but just search all text fields for campaign financing)

- c. In what year was the first bill to use the term “environment” in the text of a proposed amendment introduced?
- 1967
- d. Since 1980, who has more bills affiliated with their party, Democrats or Republicans?
- Republicans (with 1,279 bills vs. Democrats with 1,037 bills)
- e. During which decade were the most bills introduced related to the apportionment of seats in the legislature? (hint: use the Timeline view on the results page)
- 1960s (will be 1930s if they don’t filter by type for bills only)
- f. How many bills include the words “currency” and “God” in the text of the proposed amendment?
- 175
- g. How many bills include the word “currency” but *not* “God” in the text of the proposed amendment?
- 22
- h. What is one amendment advocated for by a member of the Populist party that has since been added to the Constitution?
- Authorizing Congress to levy direct taxes without regard to apportionment (16th Amendment)
 - Popular election of senators (17th Amendment)
 - Woman suffrage (19th Amendment)
- i. What is one Populist amendment idea that has not been added to the Constitution?
- Answers will vary. Could include:
 - To elect president and vice president by direct vote
 - To limit president to one term
 - For Supreme Court justices to be elected by the people