

# THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

## The Seventh Amendment

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### Introduction:

The Founders believed that trial by jury was imperative to maintaining a free society. The Seventh Amendment says that certain federal, civil cases will be tried by a jury. Many states have extended this right with their own state constitutions and laws.

The text of this amendment reads, "In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law."

### Questions:

1. What right is protected under the Seventh Amendment?
2. What year was the Seventh Amendment ratified?
3. Does the Seventh Amendment apply to civil or criminal cases?
4. Does the Seventh Amendment apply to federal or state cases?
5. What is a civil case?
6. What is a criminal case?
7. What is a clause?
8. What are the two clauses in the Seventh Amendment?
9. What was the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Colgrove v. Battin* (1973)?
10. Why might such a small percentage of civil cases be tried by a jury?