

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

The Eleventh Amendment

Introduction:

The Eleventh Amendment is the first amendment to actually amend, or change, a part of the Constitution. It changes a portion of Article III that allows citizens to bring charges against states. The Eleventh Amendment changes that text and protects states from lawsuits.

The text of this amendment reads, "The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State."

Questions:

1. What is the Eleventh Amendment?
2. What year was the Eleventh Amendment ratified?
3. What does "sovereign immunity" mean?
4. Do you think a state should have sovereign immunity? Why, or why not?
5. What article of the Constitution explains the amendment process?
6. What was the ruling of the Supreme Court in *Chisholm v. Georgia* (1793)?
7. In what way does the Eleventh Amendment overturn the *Chisholm* decision?
8. What part of the Constitution did the Eleventh Amendment change?
9. How is the Eleventh Amendment different from the Bill of Rights?
10. Why do you think the Founders made it possible to amend, or change, the Constitution?