





# Comparative Constitutions

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

**Activity:** To see how a state constitution might offer similar yet different rights than the U.S. Constitution, compare the U.S. Constitution with parts of the Florida Constitution. Underline the *main difference* in Florida’s constitution (don’t get too nitpicky), then check the statement that best describes the difference.



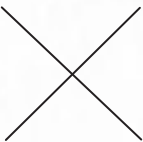

 U.S. CONSTITUTION	FLORIDA CONSTITUTION 	<b>EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE:</b>
No state shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.	All natural persons, <u>female and male alike</u> , are equal before the law.	The right being discussed is equality before the _____. Florida’s constitution gives <input type="checkbox"/> more protection <input type="checkbox"/> the same protection.
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied... on account of race, ...[or] on account of sex ...[or to citizens] who are eighteen years of age or older...	No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability.	The U.S. Constitution talks about the right to _____, while the Florida constitution talks about _____ right. The Florida constitution gives <input type="checkbox"/> more protection <input type="checkbox"/> the same protection.
	All working Floridians are entitled to be paid a minimum wage...	Does the U.S. Constitution mention a minimum wage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...	Every person may speak, write and publish sentiments on all subjects but shall be responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.	The right being discussed is freedom of _____ and of the _____. Both constitutions forbid passing _____ that limit these rights. The Florida constitution says people can’t _____ these rights.
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.	The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.	The right being discussed is the right to _____. Florida’s constitution allows the state to limit <input type="checkbox"/> the right to bear arms. <input type="checkbox"/> how people bear arms.
	No gill nets or other entangling nets shall be used in any Florida waters.	Does the U.S. Constitution mention fishing nets? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Keep going on the next page!**

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*Continued from last page...*

 <b>U.S. CONSTITUTION</b>	<b>FLORIDA CONSTITUTION</b> 	<b>EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE:</b>
<p>No person shall be . . . subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law . . .</p>	<p>No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, or be compelled in any criminal matter to be a witness against oneself.</p>	<p>The rights being discussed are due _____, double _____, and being a _____ against yourself.</p> <p>The Florida constitution gives  <input type="checkbox"/> more protection  <input type="checkbox"/> the same protection.</p>
<p>The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated...</p>	<p>The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and against the unreasonable interception of private communications by any means, shall not be violated.</p>	<p>Both constitutions guarantee freedom from unreasonable _____ and _____.</p> <p>The Florida constitution also guarantees freedom from unreasonable _____ of private _____.</p>
	<p>Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education...</p>	<p>The Florida constitution requires the state to maintain a system of _____.</p> <p>Does the U.S. constitution mention schools or education?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...</p>	<p>There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety.</p>	<p>The right being discussed is the freedom of _____.</p> <p>Florida's constitution says people cannot practice religion in a way that is  <input type="checkbox"/> immoral  <input type="checkbox"/> not peaceful  <input type="checkbox"/> unsafe  <input type="checkbox"/> all of the above</p>
	<p>Those in the Everglades Agricultural Area who cause water pollution shall be primarily responsible for paying the costs of the abatement of that pollution.</p>	<p>Does the U.S. constitution mention cleaning up pollution?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Does the U.S. constitution mention the Florida Everglades?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>