

Name _____

Unlocking the Constitution: How Amendments Are Made

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Widespread public support could put pressure on elected representatives to propose and support the amendment. It may lead to bipartisan cooperation and expedited legislative processes. State legislatures may also feel compelled to ratify an amendment with strong public backing.
2. Answers may vary. One example could be the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law and due process. It had a profound impact on civil rights and paved the way for legal challenges to discrimination.
3. One example is the Women's Suffrage Movement, which led to the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. This amendment granted women the right to vote, advancing gender equality and expanding democracy.
4. The Constitution's amendment process has allowed it to evolve and address emerging issues. Amendments like the 13th (abolishing slavery), 19th (women's suffrage), and 26th (voting age) reflect societal progress and changing values. The process ensures that the Constitution remains a relevant and adaptable framework for governance.

