

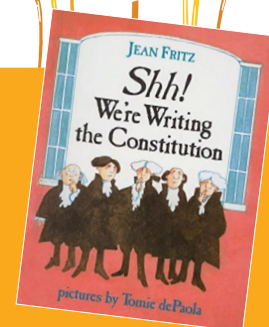
This Month's Lesson:

The Wheat and the Chaff



Objective:

This theme introduces the Constitution of the United States as established by our Founding Fathers. The title of the theme uses the analogy of separating the wheat from the chaff to distinguish between the original intent of the Constitution that we seek to learn and the alterations and misinterpretations that people often equate with the Constitution today.



**Read-Aloud
Book of the Month:**
*Shh, We're Writing
the Constitution*
by Jean Fritz

Weekly Lessons:

Week 1: Let's Explore Questions and Family Constitution Activity

Week 2: Let's Explore Questions and Constitution Matching Game Activity

Week 3: Let's Explore Questions and Branches of the Government Game Activity

Week 4: Let's Explore Questions and Bill of Rights Bingo Activity

Week 1 : Lesson

Preamble

We the Peoples of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



Let's Explore



Watch the video, "The Constitution for Kids - Preamble," and answer the questions below.

Find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8VHe0Jxh4U>



Questions to Ask!

- 1 How do rules help organize our nation?
- 2 Why do you think the constitution was created?



Activity: Family Constitution

Together as a family, write a constitution for your home and place it where all family members can see it.

Think of rules that would help your family to be good family members and American citizens.



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth:

Learn the Preamble by playing games.

Preamble Scramble: https://texaslre.org/games_end/USPreamble

Pirate of the Preamble Game: https://texaslre.org/games_eng/Pirates

Week 2 : Lesson

An Overview of the U.S. Constitution

Let's Explore

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Constitution of the United States is the foundation of our American Government. It lays out the system of Government and the rights of the American people. The Constitution has three parts. The Preamble tells the purpose of the document and Government. The Articles set up how the Government is organized and how the Constitution can be changed. The Amendments are changes to the Constitution. The first ten Amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

Representatives from the states met at the Constitutional Convention of 1787. They debated about what should be included in the Constitution. Large states felt that they should have more representation in Congress, while small states wanted equal representation. The leaders created a bicameral legislative branch, which gave equal representation to each state in the Senate and representation based on population in the House of Representatives.

The Constitution also created an executive branch and a judicial branch to set up a system of checks and balances. All three branches would have power so no one branch could become more powerful than another. The Constitution was presented to the American public on September 17, 1787.

Source: <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/u-s-constitution-1789>

Questions to Ask!

1

What are the 3 parts of the Constitution?

2

Why do you think there were debates about what should be included in the Constitution?



Activity: Constitution Matching Game

Play the matching game with Constitution related images. Find the printable pages in the Activity Day Outline PDF.

Draw other Constitution related images, add it to the game, and play again.



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Complete the crossword puzzles and word searches at ConstitutionFacts.org (Fun Zone)

Find it here: <https://www.constitutionfacts.com/?section=funZone&page=crosswordPuzzles.cfm>

Week 3 : Lesson

The Articles



Let's Explore

There are seven Articles in the Constitution.

Articles are different sections of a bigger document much like chapters in a book.

Articles 1-3 are about the branches of our government.

The United States Government is divided into three parts, or branches:

the **legislative** branch, the **executive** branch, and the **judicial** branch.

Each branch has a different duty, but all three branches must work together.

Questions to Ask!

- 1 Do you know which branch of government the President of the United States is part of?
- 2 Why do you think our Founding Fathers divided the government into 3 branches?



Activity:

Branches of the Federal Government Game

As a family, play the **Branches of the Federal Government game**, and see how much you know and how many leaves you can put on the tree.

Find it here: https://texaslr.org/games_eng/Branches



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Watch the video, "The Most Powerful Political Office in the World".

Find it here: <https://youtu.be/IWbbRa7Usxs>

Share with your family what you learned about the Executive Branch.

Week 4 : Lesson

The Bills of Rights and The Amendments

Let's Explore



Watch the Video, "The Constitution for Kids - Bills of Rights" and discuss the questions below.

Find it here: <https://youtu.be/3P6E3Bpn5yw?t=85>



Questions to Ask!

- 1 What are the first 10 amendments of the Constitution called?
- 2 Why was the Bill of Rights written?



Activity: Bill of Rights Bingo

Play the Bill of Rights Bingo with your family.
https://wordmint.com/public_puzzles/3422514
(free games but registration is required)



Suggestions for Older Kids or Youth: Read the article, "The Seventeenth Amendment and the Destruction of Federalism" and answer the question below.

Find it here: <https://momsforamerica.us/wp-content/mfa-cmhostess/The-Seventeenth-Amendment-and-the-Destruction-of-Federalism.pdf>

What is an example of a negative impact that resulted from the 17th Amendment?



Other Helpful Resources

Other Suggested Books:

- ❑ *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States* by David Catrow
- ❑ *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution* by Betsy Maestro and Giulio Maestro
- ❑ *We the People: The Story of Our Constitution* by Lynne Cheney and Greg Harlin
- ❑ *Our Constitution Rocks* by Juliette Turner
- ❑ *If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution* by Elizabeth Levy and Joan Holub
- ❑ *The Founders: The 39 Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution* by Dennis B Fradin
- ❑ *The Story of the Constitution* by Marilyn Prolman and Robert Glaubke (*Cornerstones of Freedom* series)
- ❑ *Elementary Catechism on the Constitution of the United States* by Arthur J. Stansbury
- ❑ *Teaching Children the 28 Principles of Liberty: Principles from W. Cleon Skousen's The 5000 Year Leap* by Dr. Chris M. Jolley
- ❑ *The 5000 Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen
- ❑ *Promises of the Constitution* by Pamela Openshaw
- ❑ Online resource for teaching the Constitution to kids from ConSource
(Click here: https://www.consource.org/static/lesson-plans/Guide-United_States_Constitution_for_Kids.pdf)
- ❑ *I Love America 1 & 2* (available for purchase at <https://kimbercurriculum.com/?s=I+Love+America>)



Special Note:

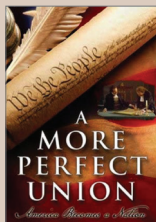
See the **Cottage Kids-10-2-Activity Day Outline pdf** for fun activities and discussions you can do with your children or a group of kids in your community at the end of the lesson! There are activities for younger and older kids!

The only requirement we have is that you HAVE FUN!

Suggested Movies:

Parental guidance is always recommended for any films we list.

To find where these movies are available,
search at <https://www.imdb.com> unless noted otherwise.



❑ A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation (1989)

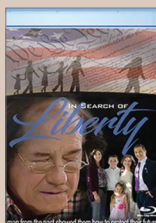
No Rating



❑ Magna Carta and the Constitution

View here:

<https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/resource/magna-car-ta-and-the-constitution-history/>



❑ In Search of Liberty

No Rating, Purchase here:

<https://www.insearchofliberty.com/>



❑ A More Perfect Union: George Washington and the Making of the Constitution (1989)

View here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k55VdRD8DDo>



❑ TFK Explains:
The U.S. Constitution

View here:

<https://www.amazon.com/vd-p/038b65cdfba040ccaccc8dc-3037da7aa>



❑ Constitution for Kids Series

View here:

<https://freedomfactor.org/pages/constitution-for-kids>



❑ Our Constitution: A Conversation with Justices Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O'Connor

View here:

<https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/resource/our-constitution-a-conversation/>