

# Activity Day!

## Outline & Printable Resources

This Month's Lesson:

# America: Share the Story



### Suggested Activity and Discussion for Kids

*Depending on the size and makeup of your group, you may want to divide the children into age groups for the different activities.*

#### Opening

- Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance (*located in the General Resource pdf*) You can have one of the children hold a small flag or use a larger flag. This is a great opportunity to teach the children respect and proper care and folding of the flag.)
- Recite Preamble to the U.S. Constitution (*located in the General Resource pdf, doing this each day as a family will have your children memorizing it in no time at all.*)

**Video & Discussion:** Great American Melting Pot

**Activity & Discussion:** Telephone Game

**Story & Discussion:** Faith of Christopher Columbus

#### Closing

- Read/Recite "The American's Creed" (*located in the General Resource pdf*)
- Prayer
- Announce the next month's theme and date/location for next Activity Day

## Preparation and Materials Needed:

- Review the entire outline to consider how best to present the activities to each age group.
  - Cut out the copies of the preamble and American's Creed to have on hand, or use copies from the previous Activity Day.
  - Bring an American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Review the directions for the Telephone Game and gather supplies.
  - Have the story "The Faith of Christopher Columbus" printed to read with the children. (See page 7)
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## Video & Discussion: Great American Melting Pot

Do you know the story of America? It is a story that unites us. No matter where we came from, or how we got here, as citizens of the United States of America, we are one people united under one flag, one idea. We bring our cultures, customs and join together in one united family in the Great American Melting Pot.

- Show the Video "Great American Melting Pot" to the children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuzAUod4PaU&t=3s>

### Discussion prompt questions:

1. What is the Great American Melting Pot?
2. What unites us as a people?

(Suggestions: Freedom, brotherly kindness, American Dream, opportunity, the Constitution, equal justice for all)

### **Activity & Discussion:** Telephone Game

Supplies: A group of people, a piece of paper and pencil or pen.

#### **Directions:**

- Start with a sentence to share and whisper it to your neighbor, who then whispers it to the next person until the message gets to the last person in the group. Have the last person say what they think the message is and compare it to what the original message was from the first person.
- Talk about how the message changes a little bit each time it is passed from one person to the next so that in the end, the message isn't the same as what the first person said at all.



#### **Discussion prompt questions:**

1. What effect can a garbled message have?
  2. How can we be sure that a message can be transmitted clearly?
  3. How did our Founding Fathers work to ensure that their message was clear and sustained?
    - Now, play the game again, but this time have the first person write down their message and pass it to their neighbor, and so on, until it gets to the last person in the group. Then have the last person read the message and compare to what the first person wrote.
1. Was the message the same?
  2. Imagine if every person in the group represented a generation of Americans that the message was passed down to, what would happen if each generation added or took away something from the Founding Documents?
  3. Talk about the strength and stability of these documents and how they still hold true today.

**Story & Discussion:** Read "The Faith of Christopher Columbus" with the children.

*"Happier than any fairytale, more marvelous than any wonder book, the story of the United States of America begins, 'Once upon a time,' and has come to the point where it depends upon the boys and girls who read it, to say whether or not they shall 'live happily ever after.'"*

– Elbridge S. Brooks, author of *The True Story of Christopher Columbus Called the Great Admiral*

#### **Discussion prompt questions:**

1. What does "Happily Ever After" mean?
2. How can we make sure our story of freedom continues?

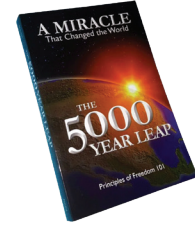
## IDEAS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUTH (Optional)

### Book Discussion

- Have youth read the Intro to *The 5000 Year Leap* and discuss what makes Our American Story unique.

This book resource is available in our store at:

[https://store-mfa.com/products/5000-year-leap?\\_pos=1&\\_psq=5000%20year&\\_ss=e&\\_v=1.0](https://store-mfa.com/products/5000-year-leap?_pos=1&_psq=5000%20year&_ss=e&_v=1.0)



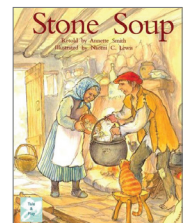
1. What made the leap from handcarts to space ships, slate boards to laptops?
2. How does our American Story unite us as a people?
3. What can we, individually, do to sustain and secure liberty ourselves, in our own home, and sphere of influence?
4. How can we share the light of liberty with others?

### ADDITIONAL IDEAS (Optional)

#### Activity & Discussion: Stone Soup

- Read *Stone Soup* (both of these books can be found at your public library or on Amazon) and have the children/youth make stone soup and compare the story, and how the community came together, to how we as citizens of the United States come together to form a more perfect union.

You can have each family bring a different ingredient. They can share a family history story or tradition as they add their ingredient to the soup.



#### Activity: Constitutional Mad Libs

(See page 5-6 for supplies and directions.)

Print this page and cut along the dotted lines for the *Constitutional Mad Libs*.

## Constitutional Mad Libs

*This is a great activity for children 10 and up to gain a better understanding of the words and meaning of the preamble and the importance of preserving our story.*

### Supplies:

- Pencil or pen and printed copies of this paper.

### Directions:

The words we choose can make a big difference! The Founding Fathers were very particular about the words that they chose to use in The Constitution of the United States of America for a reason. Changing one word in a sentence can change the outcome that results from it.

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Below you will find the preamble of the Constitution and that it is missing some very important words.

**Fill in the blank** either with what you think the words actually are or with other words. Then share your version with the group. Afterwards, discuss which very important words were missing and why they are so important to our country.

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

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*Print this page for the **Constitutional Mad Libs** discussion.*

### **Missing Words:**

#### **People:**

“People” is one of the most important words because the constitution was written for all of the people of the United States, not just those in governing roles.

#### **United:**

To have our states united into a whole and for them to come together means that they are one nation, not separate states or separate “countries”.

#### **Union:**

The constitution was written to establish a more perfect union. The coming together and improvement of the whole of the United States, together as one.

#### **Justice:**

Justice is upheld as a pillar that our country was founded upon from the beginning. Fairness in the handling that which is right and wrong.

#### **Defense:**

The common defense was the idea that the union of states needed a way to defend themselves that included all of them together.

#### **Liberty:**

Liberty and freedom were also new ideas when the Constitution was written. Our entire country was founded upon these ideas, that we and our “posterity”, the future generations, our grandchildren and great grandchildren, would have the blessings of Liberty.

#### **States:**

With our country being so huge, having states to govern locally made sense. Each state is unique in its own way and has its own set of challenges and benefits depending on its region which requires those who live in those locales to handle these specific things.

*Print this page to read with the children.*

## The Faith of Christopher Columbus

On August 3, 1492 a small fleet set sail from Spain. The entire fleet consisted of three small ships, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. The ships were small in size (less than seventy-five feet long and twenty-five across) and were typical of ships that sailed the Mediterranean Sea at the time. The three vessels were manned by a combined crew of eighty-eight men.

Instead of turning west, they traveled 700 miles south to the Canary Islands off the Northwestern coast of Africa. In that way they were able to catch the northeast trade winds, which would propel them all the way to the Americas. On September 6th, after restocking provisions and making repairs, they left the safety of the civilized world and headed west.

In order to convince the Queen Isabella of Spain to invest in the expedition, Christopher Columbus had promised the trip from the Canaries to the Indies would be a "few days." He believed that Asia was only 2,400 miles away. But after a few days had passed and they traveled further (as they believed) than man had ever sailed, the crew became increasingly uncomfortable. To lessen their fears, Columbus purposely reported the length of each day's voyage as shorter than they had actually traveled. Numerous false sightings of land also caused morale to suffer. By the last week of September, the men could see their supplies diminish and clear signs of mutiny were appearing among the crew. The spirit of adventure and the promise of shared wealth soon turned to whispered threats and grumbling.

On October 8th, the captains of the Nina and Pinta demanded a meeting. They insisted that the search for land be abandoned. Columbus agreed they would turn homeward if land was not found within 3 days. He also avoided complete mutiny of his own crew by agreeing to turn back after 2 or 3 days.

Columbus was resolute! Later, in a letter to the Spanish hierarchy, he wrote, "Our Lord unlocked my mind, sent me upon the sea, and gave me fire for the deed. Those who heard of my emprise called it foolish, mocked me, and laughed. But who can doubt but that the Holy Ghost inspired me?" His quest for the voyage was also explained in his writings, "The fact that the gospel must be preached in so many lands in such a short time- this is what convinces me." Unwavering, yet running out of time, Columbus went to his cabin and, in his words, "prayed mightily to the Lord."

Finally, on October 11th, a little after midnight, crew members found a sprig of green with a tiny white flower floating in the water. Later a piece of floating board was discovered, then a little stick which appeared to have been carved into the shape of a man. Finally, at 2:00 AM on October 12th, under a moon slightly past full, a sailor called out, "Land! Land on the horizon!" The expedition led by Christopher Columbus had discovered America.

Years later, when alone and frustrated, Columbus told of hearing a "Compassionate voice" that addressed him saying, "O fool, and slow to believe and to serve thy God...what did He do more for Moses, or for David his servant, than He has done for thee?"

Columbus had opened the doors to the most phenomenal spread of Christianity since the time of the early apostles and set the stage for the greatest nation in the history of the world. To us and generations to come, the words of Columbus continue to encourage us, "No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and the intention is purely for His holy service."

**Note:** more of this story can be found in "The Light and the Glory" by Peter Marshall.