

DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES FOR *CONSTITUTION DAY- SEPTEMBER 17, 2008*

Most Americans know that July 4th is our nation's birthday. Far fewer Americans know that September 17th is the birthday of our government, the date in 1787 when delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed and signed the U.S. Constitution. The democratic principles on which the United States was founded - commitments to the rule of law, limited government and the ideals of liberty, equality and justice - are embodied in the Constitution, the oldest written constitution of any nation. Constitution Day is intended to celebrate not only the birthday of our government, but the ideas that make us Americans.

September 17th has been designated as Constitution Day. Per federal legislation, all schools and federal agencies are *required* to hold educational programs celebrating the U.S. Constitution. All schools are asked to plan appropriate activities on Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

Curriculum and Instruction, Social Sciences, has developed the attached resource guide to assist teachers in providing instruction about the U.S. Constitution. These resources are intended to serve as tools to implement the requirements of federal legislation.

The resource guide is divided into the following sections:

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| Celebrating the Constitution | An Interview with "Ben Franklin" |
| Copy of the U.S. Constitution | A copy of the U.S. Constitution is provided for teachers to use as a reference and resource. |
| Constitution for Kids K-3 | A "student" friendly explanation of the U.S. Constitution along with discussion questions. |
| Facts about the Constitution | A handout containing interesting facts about the U.S. Constitution |
| FCAT Reading and Writing Activity | A social science reading with FCAT-style questions about the U.S. Constitution and/or issues related to the Constitution |
| Social Science Lessons | Detailed social science lesson plans with support materials |
| Internet Resource Sheet | Internet resources to help teachers and students gather more information regarding the U.S. Constitution |

If you have questions about Constitution Day or the instructional materials, please contact Robert Brazofsky, District Supervisor, Curriculum and Instruction, Social Sciences, via e-mail at rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net. Thank you for your continued support.

**RESOURCES FOR
CITIZENSHIP DAY & CONSTITUTION DAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**



**Elementary School
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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Celebrating the Constitution

“Ben Franklin” talks to Scholastic Kid Reporters about how the Constitution almost didn't happen.

By J.R. Sirotta, Scholastic Kids Press Corps

The U.S. Constitution almost didn't happen. Delegates were arguing over details and some didn't even show up for the meetings. If it wasn't for Ben Franklin and George Washington, our nation's most important document may never have been signed into law.

In 1786, the first Constitutional Convention was called in Annapolis, Maryland. Only five states sent delegates! The next year, 1787, the convention was called for May 14 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was May 25 before enough people arrived to vote on the document.

Eventually 55 delegates from 12 of 13 states showed up. All states except Rhode Island were represented. It was not until September 17 that the document was signed by 39 delegates. That is the date that we now celebrate as National Constitution Day, but it is a day that almost didn't happen.

Scholastic News recently met with Ben Franklin at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. (We actually met with Ben Franklin re-enactor Ralph Archbold, who is an expert on Franklin's life and accomplishments.) He told us all about the conflicts surrounding the writing of the Constitution.

"There are conflicts in everything and one of the problems we had was that we had 13 different states and they had different interests," Franklin said.

He explained that the larger states thought the smaller states just wanted their money. The small states feared that the larger ones wanted to take them over.

"We had to learn to work together to put aside our differences and to find our points of agreement to work to solve the problems and write a constitution," he said.

Franklin also worked on the Declaration of Independence, which was signed 11 years before the Constitution was written.

"The Declaration of Independence was only a promise that said that we wanted to be free and independent—it didn't make us that," Franklin explained. Before the country could really be free it had to fight a war against Great Britain and write a constitution.

Today, Americans still honor Franklin and the Founding Father's contributions. In what was once the nation's capital city, Philadelphia, a museum was built to honor the Constitution. The National Constitution Center provides children and teachers with an opportunity to learn about the importance of the Constitution through modern interactive exhibits.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Preamble

We the people 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.

Article I

Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Section 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

Section 4.

The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 5.

Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and

nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time: and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office.

Section 7.

All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

Section 8.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings;--And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the

foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Section 9.

The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another: nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

Section 10.

No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection laws: and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress.

No state shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

Article II (2)

Section 1.

The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said House shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each state having one vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen Years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been

elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2.

The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

Section 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

Section 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

Article III (3)

Section 1.

The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Section 2.

The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority;--to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls;--to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;--to controversies to which the United States shall be a party;--to controversies between two or more states;-- between a state and citizens of another state;-- between citizens of different states;-- between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

Section 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

Article IV (4)

Section 1.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

Section 2.

The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

Section 3.

New states may be admitted by the Congress into this union; but no new states shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

Section 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

Article V (5)

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

Article VI (6)

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

Article VII (7)

The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G. Washington - President and deputy from Virginia

New Hampshire: **John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman**

Massachusetts: **Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King**

Connecticut: **Wm. Saml. Johnson, Roger Sherman**

New York: **Alexander Hamilton**

New Jersey: **Wil. Livingston, David Brearly, Wm. Paterson, Jona. Dayton**

Pennsylvania: **B. Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robt. Morris, Geo. Clymer, Thos. FitzSimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouv Morris**

Delaware: **Geo. Read, Gunning Bedford jr, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Jaco. Broom**

Maryland: **James McHenry, Dan of St Thos. Jenifer, Danl Carroll**

Virginia: **John Blair, James Madison Jr.**

North Carolina: **Wm. Blount, Richd. Dobbs Spaight, Hu Williamson**

South Carolina: **J. Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney,
Pierce Butler**

Georgia: **William Few, Abr Baldwin**

Amendments to the Constitution of the United States

Amendment I (1791)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II (1791) (2)

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.

Amendment III (1791) (3)

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV (1791) (4)

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V (1791) (5)

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI (1791) (6)

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII (1791) (7)

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII (1791) (8)

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX (1791) (9)

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X (1791) (10)

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Amendment XI (1798) (11)

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.

Amendment XII (1804) (12)

The electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of

the Senate;--The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;--the person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

Amendment XIII (1865) (13)

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIV (1868) (14)

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendment XV (1870) (15)

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI (1913) (16)

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census of enumeration.

Amendment XVII (1913) (17)

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the Senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment XVIII (1919) (18)

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the Congress.

Amendment XIX (1920) (19)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX (1933) (20)

Section 1.

The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment XXI (1933) (21)

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any state, territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several states, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the Congress.

Amendment XXII (1951) (22)

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission to the states by the Congress.

Amendment XXIII (1961) (23)

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a state, but in no event more than the least populous state; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the states, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a state; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXIV (1964) (24)

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXV (1967) (25)

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment XXVI (1971) (26)

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXVII (1992) (27)

No law varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives shall take effect until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Fascinating Facts About The Constitution

*The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and the shortest written constitution of any government in the world.

*Of the typographical errors in the Constitution, the misspelling of the word "Pensylvania" above the signers' names is probably the most glaring.

*Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the convention, where he served as the U.S. minister.

*Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, "penned" the Constitution for a fee of \$30 (\$261.45 today). Governor Morris was responsible for the wording of the Constitution. It was stored in various cities until 1952, when it was placed in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. During the daytime, pages one and four of the document are displayed in a bullet-proof case. The case contains helium and water vapor to preserve the paper's quality. At night, the pages are lowered into a vault, behind five-ton doors that are designed to withstand a nuclear explosion. The entire Constitution is displayed only one day a year, September 17, the anniversary of the day the framers signed the document.

*Thirty-nine men signed the Constitution.

*James Madison, "the father of the Constitution," was the first to arrive in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. He arrived in February, three months before the convention began, bearing the blueprint for the new Constitution.

*At least seven constitutional amendments were passed in order to reverse a Supreme Court decision. Some of the notable ones: The Thirteenth Amendment (1865), barring slavery, and the Fifteenth Amendment (1868), protecting the citizenship of African Americans, effectively overturned the Dred Scott v. Sandford decision of 1857. The Sixteenth Amendment (1913) gave Congress the power to levy an income tax, thereby overturning Pollock v. Farmers' Loan and Trust Co. (1895). And the Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971) overturned Oregon v. Mitchell (1970) which, among other things, held that Congress could not regulate the voting age in state elections. The amendment set the voting age at 18 years.

*When it came time for the states to ratify the Constitution, the lack of any bill of rights was the primary sticking point.

*The Constitution does not set forth requirements for the right to vote. As a result, at the outset of the Union, only male property-owners could vote. African Americans were not considered citizens, and women were excluded from the electoral process.

*The Great Compromise saved the Constitutional Convention, and, probably, the Union.

Authored by Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman, it called for proportional representation in the House, and one representative per state in the Senate (this was later changed to two.) The compromise passed 5-to-4, with one state, Massachusetts, "divided."

*Patrick Henry was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but declined, because he "smelt a rat."

*Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.

*The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).

*When the Constitution was signed, the United States population was 4 million. It is now more than 250 million. Philadelphia was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants.

*The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware, in December, 1787, three months after the framers had adjourned the convention in Philadelphia. When New Hampshire ratified on June 21, 1788, it was the ninth state to do so. By the ratification requirements set forth in Article VII, the Constitution was now officially established.

*Until the Seventeenth Amendment was ratified in 1913, Senators were chosen by a state's legislators. As a result, the Senate brimmed with men who obtained their positions through political patronage. Finally, under threat of a Constitutional Convention on the matter, Congress proposed this amendment.

*The 14th and 15th Amendments were passed in 1868 and 1870, respectively. Initially meant to preserve personal freedoms of African Americans, they now stand, in large part, for the idea that the Constitution implies, but does not enumerate, certain fundamental rights for all citizens.

*To amend the Constitution, a proposal must gain the support of two-thirds of the House and Senate, and three-fourths of the states. As a result, of the thousands of proposed amendments, only 27 have passed. Amendments must be proposed either by a two-thirds vote in Congress, or by a Constitutional Convention. Such a convention can only be held if two-thirds of the states' legislatures support it.

Source: <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/cbody.shtml>

The U.S. Constitution- A Student Friendly Explanation

(adapted from <http://www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html>)

The Basics

The law is the set of rules that we live by. The Constitution is the highest law. It belongs to the United States. It belongs to all Americans.

The Constitution says how the government works. It creates the office of the President. It creates the Congress. It creates the Supreme Court.

The Constitution lists some key rights. Rights are things that all people have just because they are alive. By listing the rights, they are made special. They are made safe. The Bill of Rights is a part of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights lists many rights of the people.

History

The Constitution was written in 1787. Yes, it is over 200 years old. We actually have old copies of what was created.

In 1787, a group of men met to write the Constitution. They did not like the way the country was organized. They fixed it by creating the Constitution. We call these men The Framers.

Some of the framers are very famous. George Washington was a Framers. So was Ben Franklin.

The Framers met during a hot summer. They had a lot of disagreements. In the end, they agreed to the words in the Constitution. They knew they had to agree. If they did not agree, the fighting would keep going.

After the Framers wrote the Constitution, they asked the states to approve it. It took some time, but all the states did approve it.

Some people did not like the Constitution. Some were afraid because it did not do enough to protect the rights of the people. It had no bill of rights.

Promises were made to add a bill of rights. After the Constitution passed, the Bill of Rights was added. The Bill of Rights is the first ten changes to the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is very important. It protects important ideas. It protects your right to say what you want. It lets you think for yourself. It keeps the laws from being too hard. It gives rules for the police.

It lets you believe practice your religion. No one can tell you what to believe. It lets you gather with your friends to talk. It makes sure you can read newspapers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the Constitution do?
2. What's the highest law in the United States?
3. What are the three branches or parts to the U.S. government?
4. Why did the Framers eventually include a Bill of Rights in the Constitution?
5. What's the main purpose of the Bill of Rights?

FCAT Reading and Writing Activity

GRADE LEVEL/COURSE: Elementary- Grades 4 and 5

TITLE: The Constitution: A Living Document

4th Grade CBC COMPONENT: VI Global Perspective

COMPETENCY: VIA

OBJECTIVE(S): VIA4 Discuss age-appropriate current events relative to celebrations in the United States and other nations.

5th CBC COMPONENT: II Historical Awareness

COMPETENCY: IIC

OBJECTIVE(S): IIC2 Discuss the major democratic principles and concepts outlined in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights; e.g., freedom, justice, equality, majority rule, minority rights.

READING: Constitution: A Living Document

SOURCE: www.scholasticnews.com

MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS:

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Constitution: A Living Document

Background

The Constitution is a document that explains our nation's guiding principles and the rights guaranteed to all U.S. citizens. Many countries have constitutions, but our Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in existence. Because it has passed the test of time, many countries have used it as a model for their constitutions.

Strife Between States

From 1781 to 1788, the government of the U.S. was based on the Articles of Confederation. Congress, as defined by this early document, wasn't strong enough to prevent the 13 states from acting independently. Each state had its own government and could make its own laws. Each could coin its own money and arm its own soldiers. The states competed with one another for business and trade. They were like 13 separate nations rather than one. Congress couldn't raise taxes, borrow money, issue national money, control trade between states or with foreign nations, raise armies, or establish post offices. Most importantly, it couldn't settle quarrels between states. The new nation was divided.

Working Towards Unity

How could the new nation be strengthened enough to protect its independence? State delegates asked that question when they gathered in Philadelphia in 1787. One way was to rewrite the Articles of Confederation and make the new nation stronger by strengthening the central government. Instead, those who gathered decided to create a new governing document. But they still disagreed about how the new document would be written.

One disagreement was about the number of Representatives each state would send to Congress. Delegates from states with large populations wanted more representation because they paid more taxes. Delegates from small states feared their states would be overpowered by a central government and dominated by the larger states. Finally, a compromise was reached. Congress would consist of two houses. The state's population would determine the number of representatives in the House of Representatives. Each state would send two lawmakers to the Senate.

To give the Congress national authority, the Constitution gave Congress many new powers. Among them were the power to collect taxes, print all money, declare war, and draft soldiers.

To provide a check on this power, the delegates decided to set up three nearly equal branches of government. The Legislative branch would consist of Congress and make the laws. The President and Vice President would compose the Executive branch and enforce the laws. The Judicial branch would consist of the federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court and would interpret Constitutional laws.

Source: www.scholasticnews.com

READING AND WRITING QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- (A) to explain how the U.S. Constitution did not work at first
- (B) to explain how the U.S. Constitution is the basis for our government
- (C) to explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual rights
- (D) to explain how the U.S. Constitution was signed only by the delegates

2. What conclusion can be made based on this article?

- (A) The U.S. Constitution can not be changed or added to.
- (B) The U.S. Constitution gives too much power to the President.
- (C) The U.S. Constitution has helped other countries write their own constitutions.
- (D) The U.S. Constitution's ideas are only for people who live in the United States.

3. Read the following sentence from the article:

Each [state] could coin its own money and arm its own soldiers.

“Coin” money means to

- (A) make or produce money.
- (B) exchange money.
- (C) make metal coins only.
- (D) use different money.

4. Why were both small states and large states happy with the Constitution?

- (A) Because each state would have equal number of representatives in the House of Representatives.
- (B) Because each state would send representatives to Congress based on population only.
- (C) Because each state would be able to send more Senators to the Senate if they had more people in their state.
- (D) Because two houses of Congress were approved that satisfied the needs of both small and large states.

5. Explain why the Articles of Confederation did not work. Use details and information from the article to support your response.

6. Explain the main function of the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court. Use details and information from the article to support your response.

Social Studies Lesson Plan

GRADE LEVEL/COURSE: Primary Elementary Social Studies

TITLE: The First Amendment

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will explain the meaning of the terms *freedom of speech* and *freedom of the press*.
- Students will demonstrate creative thinking skills in creating a poster.

SUGGESTED TIME: 50 MINUTES

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Read and discuss the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights (Handout A) with the students. Ask students to explain the meanings of the terms *freedom of speech* and *freedom of the press* in their own words. Write their definitions on the board.
2. Tell students that they are going to put their thoughts about freedom of speech and freedom of the press into pictures. Have each student choose one of the terms and create a poster showing what the terms mean to him or her. Encourage students to use a variety of materials.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY: Have students show and explain their posters to the class.

MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED: Handout A
Poster board or construction paper, crayons or markers

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES: As a whole group activity, help students re-write the First Amendment in their own words.

HANDOUT A
First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Social Studies Lesson Plan

GRADE LEVEL/COURSE: Upper Elementary Social Studies

TITLE: “What is a Citizen?” and “Characteristics of Good Citizens”

OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the duties and responsibilities of citizenship and identify the process by which one may become a United States citizen.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of a good citizen.
- Describe the ways in which citizens can participate in their community and bring about changes in government actions; e.g., keeping informed, voting, political activity, community participation, volunteer service.

SUGGESTED TIME: 90 MINUTES

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

1. Write the word “citizen” on the center of the board. Ask students to define the word and write their responses in web format around the word “citizen.” Try to get a variety of definitions from several different students.
2. Write the following seven definitions of the word “citizen” on the board.

- Citizen:
- a. an inhabitant of a city or town
 - b. a member of a nation
 - c. a person born in a particular nation or who has gone through the formal naturalization process to become a member of a new nation.
 - d. a community member who owes loyalty to the government and is entitled to protection from it

- e. a native or naturalized person who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to protection from it
 - f. a civilian, as distinguished from a specialized servant of the state
 - g. one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeman
3. Ask students to read each definition (a-g) out loud. Ask them to think about how the definitions they wrote compare/contrast to the seven definitions provided (Further explanation of the seven definitions will need to be provided by the teacher, as needed). Share responses.
4. Ask the students to look at the seven definitions again while you ask them the following questions and call on students to respond.
- a. Which definition probably was used in ancient times when people were classified as citizens and slaves?
 - b. Which definition seems the least political?
 - c. Which definition distinguishes people who serve in the military?
 - d. To what does the “naturalization process” refer?
(See reference page 1B “Who Are America’s Citizens?” attached)
 - e. Do you think that being defined as a citizen depends on whether or not one is loyal to one’s government? Explain.
 - f. Which definition do you like the best and why?
 - g. Which definition should our class adopt as our official definition of a citizen and why?

Note: This discussion may warrant more questions and more input from students. These are simply sample questions to spark discussion about the concept of defining what is a citizen.

5. Say to the students: "Now that we have a workable definition of the word 'citizen,' let's discuss what identifies someone as a good citizen." Tell the students to make two columns on their paper and label the left side "Good Citizens Do . . ." and the right side "Good Citizens Don't . . ." Tell them they will have 10 minutes to come up with as many examples under each column as they can. Have students share some of the items under each column after the 10 minute time period has expired.
6. Pass out "Handout 1A - Qualities of a Good Citizen" (attached). Ask for volunteers to read each quality out loud. Discuss with the students how their lists compare/contrast with the information from the handout. Ask the students to identify items from their lists that fit into the broader categories found on the handout.
7. **Elementary School Application Activity:**
 - a. Divide the students into pairs. Have the students write fictional scenarios about "Good Citizens" and "Bad Citizens." These scenarios should be short, approximately one or two paragraphs in length. Tell the students that they will be sharing their fictional scenarios with the class and asking the class to 1) identify the fictional character as a "good" or "bad" citizen and 2) identify which "Qualities of a Responsible Citizen" (from handout 1A) the fictional character either has or lacks.

Use the following scenario as an example.

Example scenario: James is a 12 year old boy who loves to play basketball. He doesn't have enough room at his house to play ball with any of his friends, so he often rounds up his friends on weekends and they go over to the local elementary school to play ball. The problem is that the school has a fence around it and is always locked on the weekends. The boys jump the fence, don't harm or destroy anything at the school, play ball, and leave. Is James a good citizen? Which quality of a good citizen does he have or lack?

- b. Allow time for students to share their scenarios and identify the status of the fictional character as either a good or bad citizen.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY:

Oral Questioning

MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED:

White/Chalk Board

Handout 1A and Reference Page 1B

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

For home learning, have the students look through the newspaper or search on the Internet for examples of real people being good citizens. Tell them to use the "Qualities of a Good Citizen" handout to identify what category their example of a good citizen fits in. Tell them to be prepared to share their findings during the next class. Create a "Good Citizen" bulletin board.

REFERENCE PAGES:

See Reference Page 1B "Who Are America's Citizens? and Aliens in America."

HANDOUT 1A

Qualities of a Good Citizen

A Good Citizen

- 1. Is Informed:** A good citizen knows what the government is doing so that he/she can voice his/her opinion. He/she learns about issues and leaders by reading print publications, listening to news on the radio or TV, talking to people, and searching the Internet. Also, he/she knows his/her rights.
- 2. Speaks Up and Votes:** Government exists to serve its citizens. But citizens must make their concerns known. A good citizen calls, writes, and sends e-mails to his/her elected representatives, joins political parties and other organizations to work for important causes, and above all VOTES.
- 3. Studies Candidates and Issues:** Before marking his/her ballot, a good citizen studies the issues and candidates' perspectives on the issues. If the performance of an elected leader falls short, a good citizen votes for someone else in the next election. Voting ensures a peaceful and orderly change of leadership.
- 4. Respects the Rights of Others:** A good citizen respects public property and the property of others. Vandalism and littering are not only disrespectful, but are also crimes.

HANDOUT 1A (Continued)

5. **Respects Diversity:** Although one may disagree with people or disapprove of their lifestyles, a good citizen realizes that all people have an equal right to their beliefs and practices. Tolerance means respecting and accepting others, regardless of their beliefs, practices, or differences. Diversity is a strength. All citizens are equal and entitled to be treated the same.
6. **Contributes to the Common Good:** A good citizen contributes time, effort, and money to help others and to improve community life. Good citizens are active participants in their communities.
7. **Accepts Their Duties and Responsibilities:** A good citizen realizes that they have duties (things they must do) and responsibilities (things they should do) and gladly carries out their duties and accepts their responsibilities. Some examples of duties include: following the law, paying taxes, defending the nation when called upon to do so, serving in court, and attending school. Some examples of responsibilities include: helping others and contributing positively to the community in which one lives.

REFERENCE PAGE 1B

Who Are America's Citizens?

1. The U.S. Constitution establishes two ways to become a citizen: by birth and, for foreigners, by a legal process called naturalization.
5. You would automatically become an American citizen if you were born in a state or the District of Columbia, in an American territory, or on a U.S. military base overseas.
6. You can also claim citizenship if your parents are both citizens or one parent is a citizen who has lived in the United States. Children born on American soil to non-U.S. citizens also acquire U.S. citizenship, except for children of foreign diplomats.
7. A child born abroad to American parents may hold dual citizenship. (They can be a citizen of the United States and the other country in which they were born.)
8. Non-citizens, or aliens, may become naturalized citizens. More than half a million immigrants-people who move permanently to a new country-gain American citizenship each year.
9. Aliens must file a Declaration of Intention with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). They may apply for citizenship after living in the United States for 5 years (3 years for aliens married to citizens). Then, after an interview with an INS agent, the applicant may take a citizenship exam. If the INS decides to grant citizenship, the new citizen pledges allegiance to this country in a ceremony.
10. Americans keep their citizenship for life, unless they choose to give it up.

Aliens in America

1. The United States restricts the number of immigrants who can enter the country. Highest priority goes to relatives of U.S. citizens and people with needed skills.
2. Many aliens live in the United States illegally. Most come looking for a better life. Without friends and family here, life is hard. Laws forbid hiring of illegal aliens, so work is hard to find. They live in fear that the government will discover and deport them (send them back to their own country).
3. Legal aliens live like most Americans. They hold jobs and pay taxes. They do not have full political rights. They may not vote, run for office, or work in most government jobs. They must carry identification cards.

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR TEACHING ABOUT CONSTITUTION DAY

National Constitution Center

National Constitution Center official website.

Website Address: <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

We the People...

Lessons for Constitution Day and Citizenship Day all grade levels from the Center for Civic Education

Website Address: <http://www.civiced.org/index.php>

The Bill of Rights Institute

Lessons for Constitution Day

Website Address:

<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Teach/FreeResources/>

Civics and Government Lesson Plans

Lessons for upper elementary students about civics and government from Scholastic News

Website Address: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/ilp/index.asp?SubjectID=2>

Teaching with Documents: Observing Constitution Day

Lessons, activities, and simulations using primary source documents from the National Archives.

Website Address: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>

Constitution Crossword Puzzles

Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Expert Crossword Puzzles about the Constitution from Constitutionfacts.com. This site also contains a wealth of information about the U.S. Constitution.

Website Address: <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/puzzles.shtml>

Games about the Constitution

Multiple games and quizzes about the U.S Constitution and the U.S government

Website Address:

http://www.congressforkids.net/games/billofrights/2_billofrights.htm#

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and programs/activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

School Board Rules 6Gx13- 4A-1.01, 6Gx13- 4A-1.32, and 6Gx13- 5D-1.10 - prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against a student or employee on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, sexual orientation, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, or disability.

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

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