

CRYPTOGRAM OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Learning Objective: The student will

Decode with deductive reasoning the Preamble to the United States Constitution;

TEKS: 7.23 A; 8.31 C; Govt. 2 A & B; US Hist. 18 C

TAKS: 8.4 D, 8.16 C & D

Materials Needed: Copies of cryptogram

Vocabulary: Cryptogram

Teaching Strategy:

1. Read aloud to the class the following directions:

A Test your powers of reasoning and try to decipher this famous passage from an American document. Three clues have been provided to help you get started.

2. Recognize the first student(s) who correctly complete(s) the cryptogram.
3. Read chorally the Preamble.

Extension for Advanced Placement: Ask students to analyze what exactly the Preamble contains (purposes for writing the Constitution). List those purposes on the board as students call them out orally (In order to: 1. Form a more perfect union; 2. Establish justice; 3. Insure domestic tranquility; 4. Provide for the common defense; 5. Promote the general welfare; and 6. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity).

CRYPTOGRAM

Test your powers of reasoning as you try to decipher this passage from a famous American document. Three clues have been provided to help get you started. Follow the steps listed below and you'll have the puzzle decoded before you can say AJames Madison@!

L = P

Y = A

D = T

1. First, go through the entire puzzle and fill in all the letters that you know;
2. Combine your knowledge of the English language with your common sense to figure out other letters;
3. Keep a list of each new letter you decode;
4. Don't give up!

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ ? _____ _____ _____ ? _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ + _____ _____ _____ _____ & _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ , _____ + _____ _____

_____ ? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ ? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ ,

_____ _____ & _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ ,

_____ _____ + _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ + _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ ? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ + _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Z G 9 & & B + S & ? V G B Z 9 C D 7

D ? ? M C & 9 G 3 9 & Y + X

? M C L ? & D 9 C B D 7 , X ?

_____ _____ _____
? C X Y B + Y + X 9 & D Y Z G B & T

D T B & W ? + & D B D M D B ? +

V ? C D T 9 M + B D 9 X

& D Y D 9 & ? V Y A 9 C B W Y