

CONSTITUTION DAY: CONCENTRATING ON THE PREAMBLE

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Arrange the words to the Preamble of the United States Constitution in the correct order.
2. Familiarize themselves with the meanings of the words used in the Preamble.
3. Demonstrate their understanding of the ideals mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution.

TEKS: SS K.14C, 15A, 1.12C, 17C, 18A, 2.17D, 19A

Materials: Overhead transparency of the “What Does the Preamble Mean?” Attachment, sets of the “Preamble Picture Cards”

Vocabulary: Constitution, defense, document, establish, general welfare, government, justice, laws, liberty, posterity, promote, responsibilities, secure, tranquility, union

Teaching Strategy:

1. Tell students that September 17th is “Constitution Day.” Ask students what they know about the Constitution of the United States and record any facts students might know.
2. Explain to students that the Constitution is a written document that contains the main laws of our country. It is one of the most famous documents ever written. The Constitution explains:
 - how our government is organized.
 - how someone may become president and the responsibilities of the President of the United States.
 - how Congress and the Supreme Court are organized and the responsibilities of each branch of government.
 - the important rights of the people in the United States such as the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to vote, right to be treated equally, right to a fair trial, etc.
3. Ask students whether they think it was important for the founders of our country to write the laws or the set of rules for our country in the form of a constitution. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a written constitution.
4. Inform students that the introduction to the Constitution is called a “preamble.” The preamble explains the purpose of the United States Constitution.

5. Display the “What Does the Preamble Mean?” overhead transparency attachment. Review each phrase of the preamble and discuss the meaning of each phrase with students. (Optional: Create sets of the “What Does the Preamble Mean?” vocabulary words and meanings. Have students, working in pairs; match the words with their meanings.)
6. Divide students into groups of 2-4 students. Give each group a set of Preamble Picture Cards. Instruct them to arrange the words to the Preamble in the correct order.
7. Debrief the activity by having students discuss the following questions:
 - What new words did you learn from this lesson?
 - To promote the general welfare, people should work together for the common good of everyone, not just for themselves. What is something you can do to “promote the general welfare” in your class?
 - What can you do to make sure everyone is treated fairly?
 - What can you do to make sure there is peace or “domestic tranquility” in the classroom?

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students create a class book that pictorially represents each of the phrases from the Preamble to the Constitution. Individual students, or pairs of students, should be responsible for their own page and then all of the pages should be bound into one book.

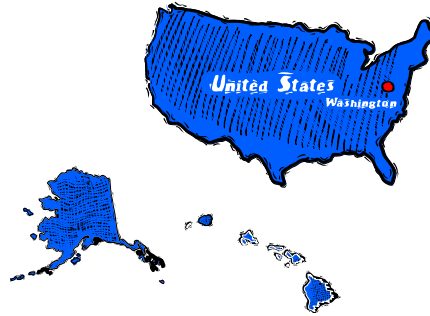
WHAT DOES THE PREAMBLE MEAN?

We the people	all of us; you and me
of the United States	the 50 states that make up our nation
in order to form	to make or create
a more perfect union	a stronger country or nation
establish justice	to make sure everyone is treated fairly
insure domestic tranquility	to make sure there is peace and quiet
provide for the common defense	to get help from others if someone tries to hurt us
promote the general welfare	to work together for the good of others, not just for ourselves
and secure the blessings of liberty	to be free to do what we want to do as long as we don't hurt others
for ourselves and	for you and for me; for us
our posterity	for those who haven't even been born yet
do ordain and establish	do order and set up
this Constitution	the laws or set of rules
for the United States of America	for our country; our nation

PREAMBLE PICTURE CARDS



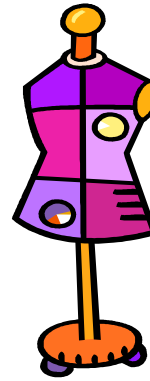
We The People



of the United States



in order



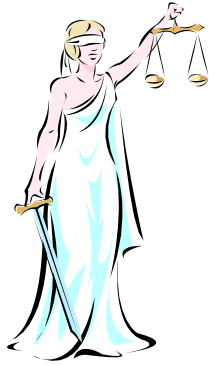
to form



a more perfect



union



establish justice



insure



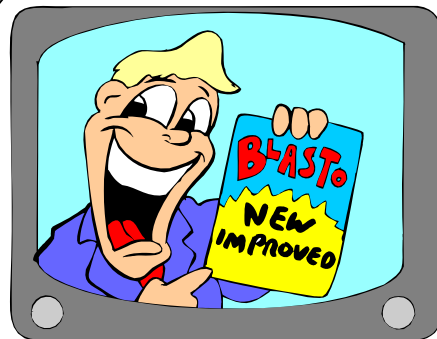
domestic tranquility



provide for



the common defense



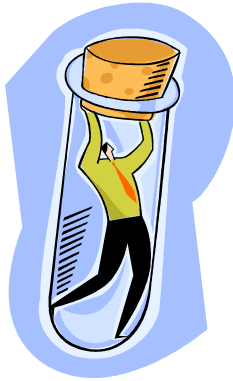
promote



the general



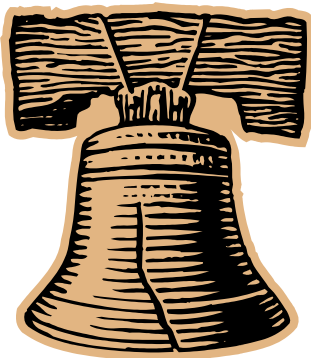
welfare



and secure



the blessings



of liberty



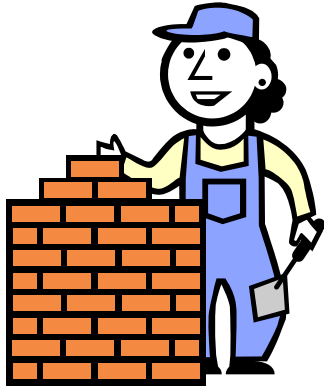
for ourselves and



our posterity



do ordain and



establish



the Constitution for the



United States



of America