

THE PREAMBLE JIGSAW COLLAGE

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Recognize the importance of the Preamble to the Constitution.
2. Interpret the meaning of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

TEKS: 8.15D; US.1A; Govt.7A&B

Materials Needed: Copy of the Preamble, magazines, a piece of poster board, glue, scissors, markers

Vocabulary: Preamble, union, domestic tranquility, general welfare, ordain, establish justice

Teaching Strategy:

1. In preparation for the lesson, cut a piece of poster board into six jigsaw puzzle pieces and write one of the six reasons for writing the Constitution given in the Preamble on the back.
 - To Form a More Perfect Union
 - Establish Justice
 - Ensure Domestic Tranquility
 - Provide for the Common Defense
 - Promote the General Welfare
 - Secure the Blessing of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity
2. Divide the class into six groups and give each a piece of the puzzle. Each group is to create a collage of pictures that identifies the assigned reason for writing the Constitution written on the back. The assigned reason should be readily apparent from the completed product. Caution the students to put their pictures on the side of the puzzle opposite the side where you wrote one of the six reasons from the Preamble so the finished puzzle will fit together correctly.
3. When all groups are finished, have the students fit the pieces together to form a whole picture, thus demonstrating that the Preamble must include all six reasons why the Constitution was written.
4. Ask each group to select a reporter to explain to the class their part of the visual representation.

Extension for GT/Pre-AP: Students will interpret the meaning of the Preamble as it relates to today's events. They will analyze and problem solve, discussing the following questions: Who are the people of America today? How can we make this a more perfect union? How do we establish justice that will be fair and equitable to the citizens? How can we establish domestic tranquility and provide for the common defense in light of what has happened since September 11, 2001? What can be done to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for all U.S. citizens?