**THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION: A BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY**

*Part A. To give you an idea of the difficult position the Americans found themselves in after the American Revolution, consider this problem:*

Imagine that on a field trip to a wilderness area or a sailing trip to a small, remote island, you all became stranded without any communication with parents, the school, or other adults and had little hope of being rescued in the foreseeable future. The area where you’re marooned can provide the basic necessities of food, shelter, and water, but you will have to work together to survive.

You’ve agreed that you’re more likely to survive long enough to be rescued if you work together and form a government. Use the questions below to brainstorm a list of recommendations to consider when developing a government for your group.

1. How will you make sure everyone sticks together and works towards the common goal of getting rescued?

2. How will you make sure that anyone who feels unfairly treated will have a place to air complaints?

3. How will you make sure that people can have peace and quiet?

4. How will you make sure that group members will help if outsiders arrive who threaten your group?

5. How will you make sure that the improvements you make on the island (such as shelters, fireplaces and the like) will be used fairly?

6. How will you make sure that group members will be free to do what they want as long as it

doesn't hurt anyone else?

7. How will you make sure that the rules and organizations you develop protect future generations?

Part B.

The questions that you just answered in Part A reflect the different parts of the Preamble, which tells us the different goals of government in the United States. See if you can match up the questions from Part A with the ideas of the Preamble that fits it the best. Type the letter of the part of the Preamble next to the question that it goes with. Each one will be used only once.

Ideas of the Preamble:

A. Promote the general welfare

B. Provide for the common defense

C. Form a more perfect union

D. Secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves

E. Establish justice

F. Secure the blessings of liberty to our posterity

G. Ensure domestic tranquility

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| QUESTIONS | WRITE THE LETTER OF THE PREAMBLE THAT MATCHES |
| 1. How will you make sure everyone sticks together and works towards the common goal of getting rescued? |  |
| 2. How will you make sure that anyone who feels unfairly treated will have a place to air complaints? |  |
| 3. How will you make sure that people can have peace and quiet? |  |
| 4. How will you make sure that group members will help if outsiders arrive who threaten your group? |  |
| 5. How will you make sure that the improvements you make on the island (such as shelters, fireplaces and the like) will be used fairly? |  |
| 6. How will you make sure that group members will be free to do what they want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else? |  |
| 7. How will you make sure that the rules and organizations you develop protect future generations? |  |