**The Constitution**

**Fulfilling the Purposes in the Preamble**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Closely read and review the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution in the lesson.

2. Examine the annotated U.S. Constitution. Find examples of how the new government is set up to fulfill the goals stated in the Preamble. Use this chart to note what you find. Some parts are completed for you as examples.

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| **Preamble** | **Where in the Constitution is this function or structure supported? (There could be more than one article that relates—just identify one. It is okay to identify the same article multiple times if appropriate.)** | **How does this specific article of the Constitution support this line of the Preamble? *Using your own words*, explain and give an example.** |
| “We the People of the United States,” | *Article I—Legislative Branch* | *The people are the source of federal government power, as they elect their representatives and senators to Congress.* |
| in Order to form a more perfect Union, | Article I—Legislative Branch | The structure of Congress is designed to bring the states together, providing a unified national government that can handle national issues while respecting state rights. The creation of a bicameral legislature (House of Representatives and Senate) balances the interests of both large and small states. |
| establish Justice, | *Article III—Judicial Branch* | The judicial system, including the establishment of the Supreme Court and inferior courts, is set up to provide justice by interpreting the laws and resolving disputes. For example, the Supreme Court has the power to interpret laws and ensure they align with the Constitution. |
| insure domestic Tranquility, | Article II—Executive Branch | The executive branch, led by the President, is responsible for maintaining law and order within the country. The President has the authority to use law enforcement and national guard forces to respond to domestic disturbances and ensure peace. |

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| provide for the common defence, | *Article I—Legislative Branch* | Congress is granted the power to raise and support armies and provide for the nation's defense. For example, Congress has the authority to fund the military and declare war. |
| promote the general Welfare, | Article I—Legislative Branch | Congress has the power to make laws that promote the well-being of all citizens, such as laws on healthcare, education, and infrastructure. For instance, legislation like Social Security and Medicare helps support the general welfare of citizens. |
| and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, | Article V—Amendment Process | *It provides a way to change the Constitution. It is* ***not*** *easy, but it helps ensure that the Constitution and the government it creates can endure over time.* |
| do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” | *Article VII—Ratification* | *The final article of the Constitution describes the means of ratifying, or putting into effect, the Constitution. It required the support of nine of the thirteen states to take effect.* |

3. Select **one** of the reflection questions below. Write a one-paragraph response in your own words.

* Which line of the Preamble is most important to you? Explain your response.
* The line "promote the general Welfare" stands out to me as the most important. This phrase speaks to the idea that the government exists not only to protect our freedoms but also to ensure that every citizen has access to basic needs and opportunities for a good life. This includes economic security, education, healthcare, and a clean environment. It’s a reminder that the government’s role isn’t just to prevent harm but to actively improve the lives of its citizens, creating conditions where everyone can thrive. This principle is especially important in times of crisis, like during a public health emergency or economic downturn, when the government must step in to help stabilize and support the well-being of the people. Promoting the general welfare ensures that the country isn't just functioning for the few, but is aiming for a fair and just society for all.