

Washington, D.C., 1963

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was _____.
Ⓐ a peaceful action to create change
Ⓑ in honor of President Abraham Lincoln
Ⓒ in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Dr. King dreamed of a day when _____.
Ⓐ people would no longer be slaves
Ⓑ all children would go to school
Ⓒ no one would be judged by their color
3. Why did people want change in 1963?

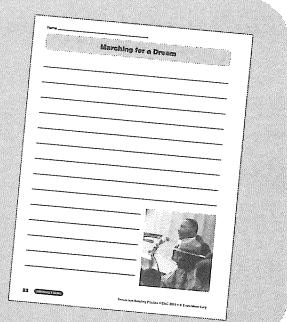
4. Why do you think the march went to the Lincoln Memorial?

5. What is the most important fact to know about Dr. King's speech on August 28, 1963?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you could write a letter to President Lincoln.
Tell him all about the March on Washington in 1963.



The Constitution of the United States

Level 1 ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

The U.S. Constitution

Fill in the circle to complete...
 and S.

It was May of 1787 when five men began to gather in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They were from 12 different United States. Their purpose was to write a Constitution for the new nation. The Constitution would set up a government and the highest law of the land. It would also be a framework for the new government to work. It would be a guide for the king. The new government would be chosen by the people, not from the people, not from a ruler.

George Washington led the meetings. They met at the Pennsylvania State House, which is now called Independence Hall. The weather was hot, so windows were open and doors were left open so no one outside could listen in. The men discussed and debated for months. Long after dinner, they voted and ratified the Constitution. They met for the last time on September 17, 1787, to sign the Constitution. They signed it over to George Washington's chair. It had a sunburst carved into it. Franklin sat with his hand on the long meeting table. At last, he knew it was a rising sun if the sun was rising or setting. At last, he knew it was a rising sun.

The Preamble to the Constitution, as stated in the Constitution, begins "We the People." The document does not include it. The first words of the Constitution were written very carefully. They were the bolded, of all. "We the People."

What to Know About the U.S. Constitution

- Constitution
- framework
- Independence Hall
- discussed
- debated
- rewrote
- carved
- Introduction
- Included
- boldest

The 25 Figures of the Constitution includes figures of James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, George Washington, and many more!

Source: Franklin Project for ABC's *25*

The Constitution of the United States of America

Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Fill in the circle to complete this sentence.</p> <p>Writing the Constitution</p> <p>The first meeting of the Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 25, 1787. Fifty-five men from 12 of the 13 United States were making their way to Philadelphia. They had been chosen to attend the Constitutional Convention. Their job was an important one. They had to write a document that would become the highest law of the land. It had to be a framework for how the government was to work. There had never been a government like it before. It was a king or queen ruled a nation. But the new government was founded on the idea of "We the people." The power came from all the people. The government was run by them and from them.</p> <p>The Constitutional Convention met in the Pennsylvania State House, with George Washington presiding. The meeting, also known as the Constitutional Convention, lasted for four months. On September 17, 1787, the delegates signed their work. Benjamin Franklin said at George Washington's chair, "I have sometimes sat on a nail. Franklin said he knew it was a ratting sun the sun was rising or setting. He knew it was a ratting sun when he signed the Constitution."</p> <p>The Framers of the Constitution. The President said some of the first and most remarkable were written in large letters, and they were the boldest ideas of them. They read "We the people."</p> <p>The Constitution was sent to the states, where it was discussed and debated again. In March 1789, the Constitution went into effect. In April, George Washington became the first president of the United States.</p>	<p>and S.</p> <p>March is National Writing and Constitution Month</p> <p>selected attend attend Constitutional Convention document framework discussed debated delegate cared Preamble introduces effect</p> <p>Writing the Constitution</p> <p>On the back of this page, draw a picture of the U.S. Constitution. Write a sentence or two about what you drew.</p> <p>Writing the Preamble</p> <p>Use the following words to help you write the Preamble to the Constitution.</p> <p>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 to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</p>
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Level 3

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

We the People

Fill in the circle to complete this sentence.

We the People

It was a bold new idea for our nation. The time was May 1787. It was to begin in Philadelphia. The 13 United States were making their fifty-five delegates from Pennsylvania. The delegates had been chosen by states to attend the Constitutional Convention. They had an important task to accomplish. They were going to write a document that would be the highest law of the land. The document was to be called the Constitution for the United States. It was to be a document for how that would work. It was to be a document that could work. There had never been a constitution like it. In the past, only kings or queens could make laws. A king or queen could change a law at any time. There had never been a constitution that gave power to the people. The delegates had the idea that the power came from the people.

The Constitutional Convention met in the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia. It lasted four months. The doors were shut throughout the heat of summer. The delegates did not want others to hear what they were doing. They were shut out. They wrote and rewrote. They met for the last time on September 17, 1787. This is when the Constitution was signed. Benjamin Franklin looked at George Washington and said, "I have a seal which has a sun carved into it. Franklin said he had seen it. Franklin said it was a good sign. He said it would last the summer if the men sitting at the table did not sit during the winter. As he said, it was a fitting end.

The Preamble begins the Constitution. The Preamble tells us the purpose of the Constitution and some of the ideas that are included. The first words of the Preamble were written in large letters, and they stated the boldest idea of all. The words "We the People..."

Written by Kristin
We the People

delegates
elected
attend
Constitutional
Convention
accomplish
document
Constitution
framework
discussed
debated
rewrite
Preamble
Introduces

Signers at the Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention began in 1787. The delegates from each state gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They worked for four months to write the new Constitution. The document they created became the fundamental law of the United States.

Source: Library of Congress

38 The Constitution of the United States of America

Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: The Preamble to the Constitution, page 31
 - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
 - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
 - Writing Form: The Constitutional Convention, page 32

Introduce the Topic

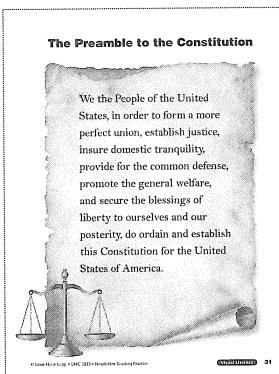
Review the Preamble to the Constitution on the Visual Literacy page with students. Guide students in a discussion about its meaning. Discuss the picture of the scales of justice.

Read and Respond

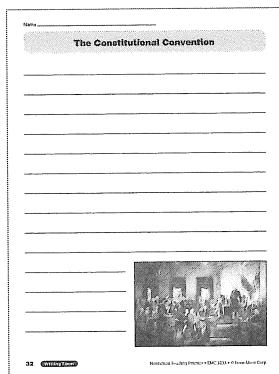
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



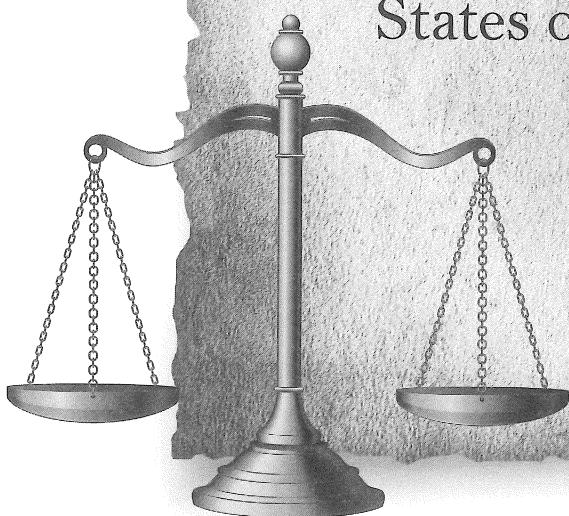
Visual Literacy



Writing Form

The Preamble to the Constitution

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 to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



The Constitutional Convention



Words to Know
**The U.S.
Constitution**

Constitution

framework

Independence
Hall

discussed

debated

rewrote

carved

Preamble

introduction

included

boldest

Words to Know
**Writing the
Constitution**

elected

attend

Constitutional
Convention

document

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**The Constitution of the
United States** ■



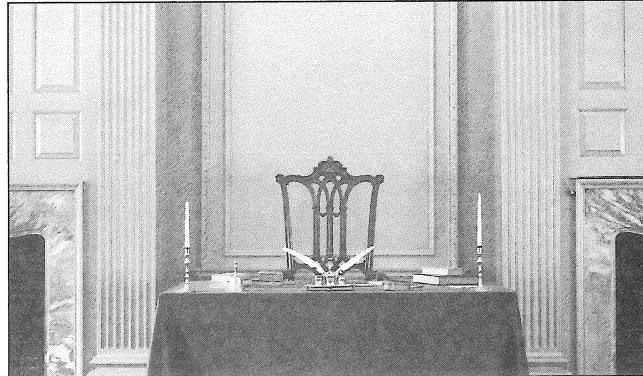
**The Constitution of the
United States** ■ ■

**The Constitution of the
United States** ■ ■ ■

The U.S. Constitution

It was May of 1787. Fifty-five men began to gather in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They came from 12 of the 13 United States. Their purpose was to write a Constitution for the new nation. The Constitution would set the rules and become the highest law of the land. It would be a framework for the new government. The men knew they were doing a bold thing that had never been done before. They had thrown off the power of the king. The new government would get its power from the people, not from a ruler.

George Washington led the meetings. They were in the Pennsylvania State House, which is now called Independence Hall. The weather was hot, and the windows and doors were shut so no one outside could listen in. The men discussed and debated over the long summer. For four months they wrote and rewrote the Constitution. They met for the last time on September 17, 1787, to sign their work. Benjamin Franklin looked at George Washington's chair. It had a sun carved into it. Franklin said he had wondered during the long meetings if the sun was rising or setting. At last, he knew it was a rising sun.



George Washington's Rising Sun chair,
Independence Hall, Philadelphia

Ritu Manoj Jethani / Shutterstock.com



The 39 signers of the Constitution included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Dickinson.

The Preamble is the introduction to the Constitution. It states the purpose and some of the ideas that are included in the Constitution. The first words of the Preamble were written in very large letters. They were the boldest idea of all. "We the People . . . "

The U.S. Constitution

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The Constitution of the United States was _____.

- (A) written in Philadelphia in 1787
- (B) signed by the king
- (C) like every government before it

2. The Preamble is the _____.

- (A) 13 original United States
- (B) beginning of the Constitution
- (C) framework of the government

3. How do you know the men did not always agree on what to include in the Constitution?
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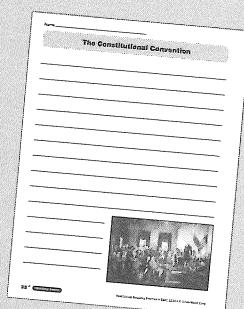
4. What do you think Ben Franklin meant when he said the sun was rising?
-
-

5. Do you think it was a good idea to use very large letters for the first three words of the Preamble?
-
-

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Write a newspaper article that might have been published the day after September 17, 1787.



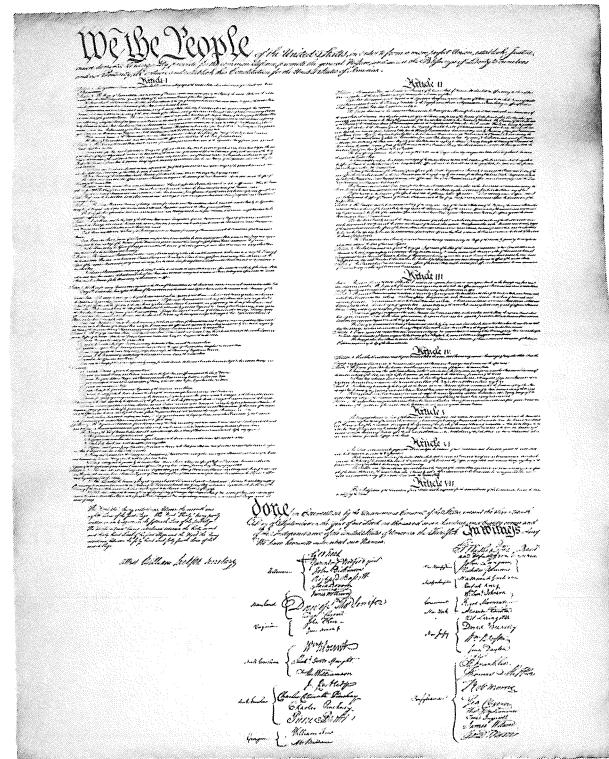
Writing the Constitution

The time was May 1787. Fifty-five men from 12 of the 13 United States were making their way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They had been elected to attend the Constitutional Convention. Their job was an important one. They would be writing a document that would become the highest law of the land. It was a Constitution for the United States. It would be a framework for how the government was to work. There had never been a government like it. In the past, a king or queen ruled a nation. But the United States was founded on a new and bold idea. The power came from all the people, not from a ruler.

The Convention met in the Pennsylvania State House, with George Washington leading the meetings. All through the summer, the men discussed and debated. They met for the last time on September 17, 1787, and 39 of the delegates signed their work. Benjamin Franklin looked at George Washington's chair, which had a sun carved into it. Franklin said he had wondered many times if the sun was rising or setting. At last, he knew it was a rising sun.

The Preamble introduces the Constitution. The Preamble states the purpose of the Constitution and some of the ideas that are included in it. The first words of the Preamble were written in very large letters, and they were the boldest idea of all. They read, "We the People . . . "

The Constitution was sent to the states, where it was discussed and debated again. In March 1789, the Constitution went into effect. In April, George Washington became the first president of the United States.



Today, the Constitution of the United States is displayed in Washington, D.C., at the National Archives Building.

Writing the Constitution

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The U.S. Constitution is a _____.
 (A) convention
 (B) preamble
 (C) framework
2. The United States was founded on the idea that _____.
 (A) a king or queen was the highest law of the land
 (B) people have the power to choose their government
 (C) George Washington would be president
3. What was Ben Franklin trying to say about the Constitutional Convention?

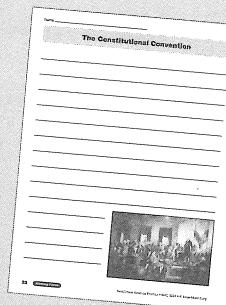
4. Explain the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution.

5. Why are the first three words of the Preamble written large?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

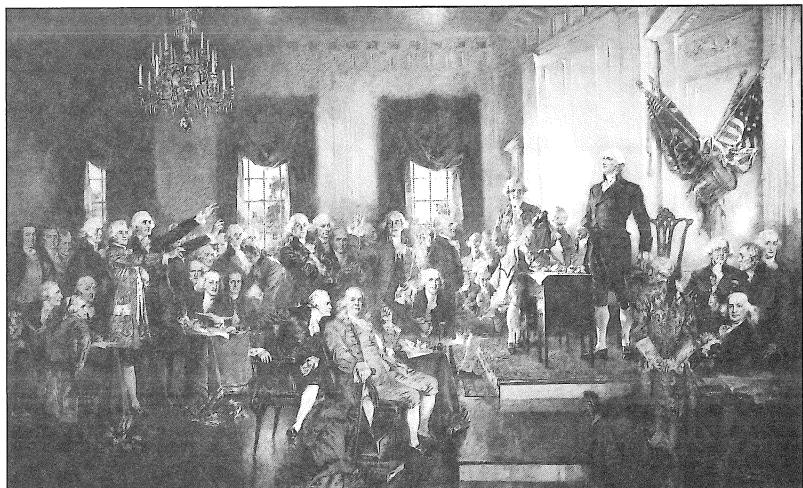
Imagine you were there at the signing of the Constitution. Write a letter home to tell all about it.



We the People

It was a bold new idea for a new nation. The time was May 1787. Fifty-five delegates from 12 of the 13 United States were making their way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The delegates had been elected by their states to attend the Constitutional Convention. They had an important task to accomplish. They would be writing a document that would become the highest law of the land. The document was a Constitution for the United States. It would be a framework for how the government of the new nation would work. There had never been a constitution like it. In the past, only kings or queens held power over a nation. But the United States was founded on the idea that the power came from the people.

The Constitutional Convention met in the Pennsylvania State House. George Washington led the meetings, which continued through the heat of summer. The windows and doors were shut during the meetings so no one outside could listen in. The men discussed and debated, and did not always agree. They wrote and rewrote. They met for the last time on September 17, 1787, to sign their work. Benjamin Franklin looked at George Washington's chair, which had a sun carved into it. Franklin said he had wondered many times over the summer if the sun was rising or setting. At last, he knew it was a rising sun.



**Signing of the Constitution in
Philadelphia, September 17, 1787**

The Preamble introduces the Constitution. The Preamble states the purpose of the Constitution and some of the ideas that are included in it. The first words of the Preamble were written in very large letters, and they stated the boldest idea of all. The words are, "We the People . . . "