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Constitution Celebration

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Introduction

By Amanda Bennett

One of the first things we think of when people mention the Constitution of the United States is the Preamble, which many of us had to memorize in elementary school:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, 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 most important document written in the history of our country has to be the Constitution, and it is so important for children to understand its history as well as its content. As your child begins *Constitution Celebration*, he will learn just how hard the people worked to create it! From May 25 to September 17, 1787, they worked long, hot hours in the high heat of summer to accomplish what they set out to do—save the Union and unite the thirteen colonies that had their differences.

There was no air conditioning. The doors to the room were kept closed and under guard. The thick, heavy curtains were kept drawn over tightly closed windows to keep the proceedings a secret. In those days, men wore powdered wigs and hot wool clothes, and deodorant wasn't in use yet. It was a hot and smelly time, but these men were convinced of the importance of this gathering. Many people had lost their lives to secure the freedom of these colonies, and they were off to a shaky start. They had to act to unite, or they risked losing their freedom and their new country. They could not fail. And yet, they could not agree on everything—there were fierce disagreements and difficult compromises. But these men valued their newly secured freedom, and they were determined to come up with a document that would establish a working and successful government, and that is exactly what they did. “We the People” opened our Constitution, and they succeeded in designing a form of government that has worked well.

As you begin *Constitution Celebration*, get ready for a wonderful learning adventure into the stories behind the document that anchors our country and its government, as well as the people and places that played key roles in its development. Your child will investigate the Constitution—from the reasons for writing it and the patriots who worked together to craft it, to the main parts of this great document. Each day your

child will explore and investigate, creating and adding more learning components to her *Constitution Celebration* lapbook—building a wonderful reminder of all that she is learning to be enjoyed for years to come.

With the new Download N Go™ unit studies, you are beginning a new kind of learning experience. Each study is one week in length, having five daily lessons with lapbook components for each day. The name, Download N Go™, comes from the concept that these studies are ready to use as soon as you have downloaded them. No preparation or waiting time or other expensive resources are required. A few inexpensive items are needed for the lapbook—a simple file folder, a glue stick, safety scissors, brass brads, and crayons or markers. That's it—simple, effective, and what a way to learn!

Come along and join the adventure as we begin the *Constitution Celebration*!



Notes to parents: *Remember that Internet site content can change overnight. Please check the sites that you plan to use before your child visits them in the study.*

Some of the videos in this study are hosted by YouTube and include Google ads that cannot be completely avoided. These ads can be hidden by clicking on the X in the upper-right corner of the ad banner.



To conserve printer ink, please note that most printers have a variety of printing options (draft mode, economy mode, grayscale, black and white, etc.) which may reduce your ink usage. Refer to [this guide](#) for assistance in exploring your printer's options.

Daily Objectives

Day 1: What Is the Constitution?

1. How do you describe a constitution?
2. What makes a constitution important?
3. What are the main parts of our Constitution?
4. Patriot of the Day: Roger Sherman

Day 2: What Is the History of Constitutions?

1. Where were constitutions first used?
2. How did word of this spread?
3. How do you build a constitution?
4. Patriot of the Day: Gouverneur Morris

Day 3: Constitutional Convention

1. Where was the Constitutional Convention held?
2. How long did it last?
3. Why did they have the Constitutional Convention?
4. What is September 17?
5. Patriot of the Day: James Madison

Day 4: Secrets of the Constitution

1. What is the Executive Branch?
2. What is the Legislative Branch?
3. What is the Judicial Branch?
4. Patriot of the Day: Charles Cotesworth Pinckney

Day 5: Goodies and Gadgets of the Constitution

1. Fun Constitutional Convention facts.
2. What is a republic?
3. Remembering the Constitution.
4. Patriot of the Day: George Clymer

Day 1

What Is the Constitution?

When America was a very young country, a group of men from the states gathered together in one place to decide how to run the new country. They met for months to come up with a good plan, through the heat of the summer, and through many disagreements and talks. Start this day with a look at a few videos that show what it might have been like when they were writing the Constitution:

Video: [Constitutional Convention Part 1](#) (this is a reenactment-type video)

Video: [The Muppets Reenact the Continental Congress](#)

So to begin this adventure, we had better begin by finding out what the Constitution is; *write the definition below.*

Constitution

What Is a Constitution?



The form consists of a large white rectangular area with four horizontal lines for writing. The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

What do we call this group of men that met to work on our Constitution?

Writers of the Constitution

The Constitution sets up the rules for a group of people or nation. One group of people that you know all about is your family. Who is in your family? *Write the names of your immediate family members on the puzzle pieces on the cutout page. If needed, write several names on each puzzle piece to include all your immediate family members. Cut out the puzzle pieces on the [cutout page](#), and glue them on the [My Family](#) page.*

To keep a nation or group of people united, everyone has to work together to get things done. Do you have certain jobs you take care of for your family?

What are these jobs? *Circle your chores below.*

