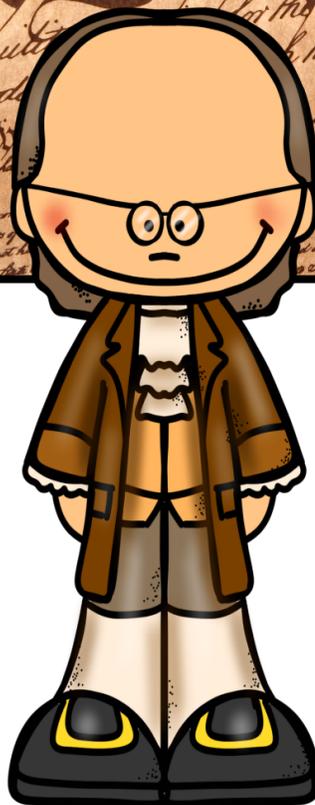
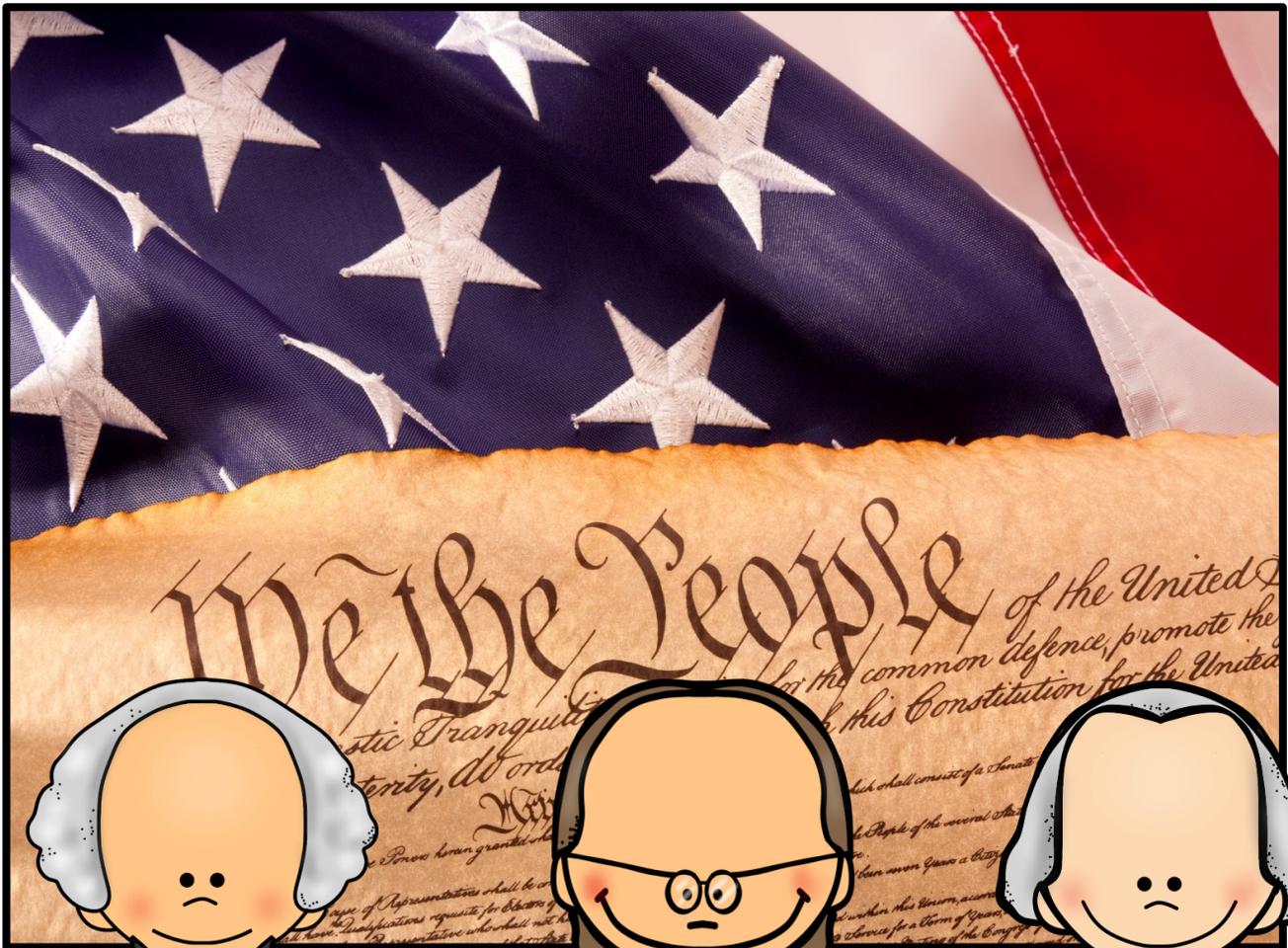


Writing of the U.S. Constitution

By Heart2HeartTeaching.com



Hello!

Some might say I did it backwards because I had my children first and then went to college to get my teaching degree. After volunteering in my son's Kindergarten classroom, I knew that I wanted to become a teacher. My first teaching job was in a sixth grade classroom in upstate NY. At the time, most of us were specialized in two subjects, mine were social studies and language arts. It was then that I fell in love with history and shared my love of it with my students by writing creative and interactive lessons, projects, and units.

Several years ago, I moved to Georgia and accepted a teaching job in second grade. I was excited about working with the younger kiddos. It was an awesome learning experience as I had to step up my game to develop creative lessons and fun projects to keep those busy hands and minds actively engaged. I'm so thankful that over the years, I have seen where students start in Kindergarten to becoming active learners in second grade and progressing to critical thinkers in the upper grades.

A few years ago, my aunt passed away unexpectedly. She was like a mother to me so it was difficult time for our family. I took a year off from teaching to clean out her house and decide what needed to be donated, sold, and passed on to other family members. During this huge undertaking (she was a collector and keeper of everything) I had a lot of time to reflect on all she had taught me over the last 25 years.

Here's the short version:

- *Life is about relationships
- *Find your passion and do what you love!
- *Enjoy life: try new things, dance in the rain, stay young at heart!

It was then that I knew what I wanted to do...My favorite part of teaching was writing and creating curricula that makes learning meaningful and fun. I thrive when I know that students want to come to school and they are excited about learning. This has always been my passion, seeing that spark, that smile, and sense of pride a student feels when he or she accomplishes a difficult task or learns a new skill. So, I have decided to dedicate myself to making creative, interactive lessons and units for teachers to use in their classrooms. I know how demanding and fulfilling teaching can be. I want to help other teachers by giving them creative materials that will save them time and make learning fun! I am looking forward to this amazing journey ahead!

Wishing You All the Best,
Juliette Roman

Connect with me:

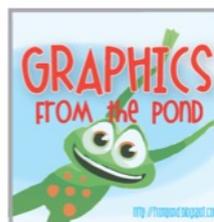
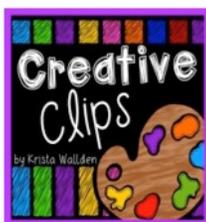
Blog: <http://www.heart2heartteaching.com>

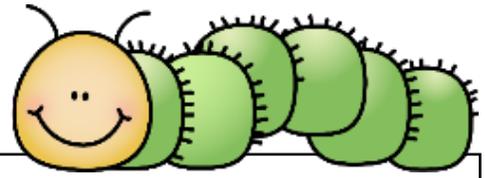
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Teacher's Notes: Learning Goals:

Students will learn all about
U.S. Constitution

This unit includes many
interactive activities and
learning opportunities for
students including

Informational articles:

Articles of Confederation

U.S. Constitution

Constitutional Convention

The Great Compromise

We the People...

Bill of Rights

Meet George Washington

Meet Ben Franklin

Meet James Madison

Vocabulary Posters

Vocabulary Flip Flaps

5 Page Flip-Up Booklet

How to Use this Packet:

There are lots of ways to use this packet in the classroom depending on your students and the time allotted for this unit.

There are 3 main activities:

Vocabulary:

Introduce the vocabulary words with the real-life photo posters included. You could post these posters around the classroom and have students travel around to match up and define the words in their flip flaps or use as a center activity. These posters are excellent for a bulletin board display too. In addition, the vocabulary flip flaps are great for interactive notebooks.

Reading:

Next, have students read the informational articles all about the writing of the U.S. Constitution and character studies where they will meet George Washington, Ben Franklin, and James Madison. The articles are written in the form of mini-booklet with scenes for students to connect and color. Pages can be stapled at the top to make one large booklet or be cut in half to create a mini-booklet.

Student Activities:

Have students complete 5 page Flip-Up Booklet all about U.S. Constitution. For the Flip-Up Book, you could have students do one page at each center or station. They can use the articles as a reference source to help them complete the pages of the booklet. Lastly, they cut, color, and assemble the booklet. Flip-Up books can be glued or stapled inside their interactive notebooks, file folder, or a 12 x 18 piece of construction paper folded like a book cover. Students could then decorate the cover of the booklet.

MEET GEORGE WASHINGTON

When George Washington was young he enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, and riding horses. He also loved pretending he was a soldier just like his older brother, Lawrence.

George Washington

It wasn't long before George became a leader in the military. In 1775, he became Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. When General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown, it ended the Revolutionary War! America was free at last! Washington won many battles for his country and became a hero! Next, George helped write up a set of laws for our new country to follow. These rules are called the United States Constitution.

In 1789, George Washington was elected the 1st President of the United States. He worried that he wasn't good enough to be president. At first, the new government met in New York City. Then it moved to Philadelphia as plans were made to build a new capital that would someday be called Washington D.C. George worked hard as president to solve many problems. He watched the United States grow and prosper. When George left office, people gave speeches and threw parties to show how much they appreciated and respected this great man.

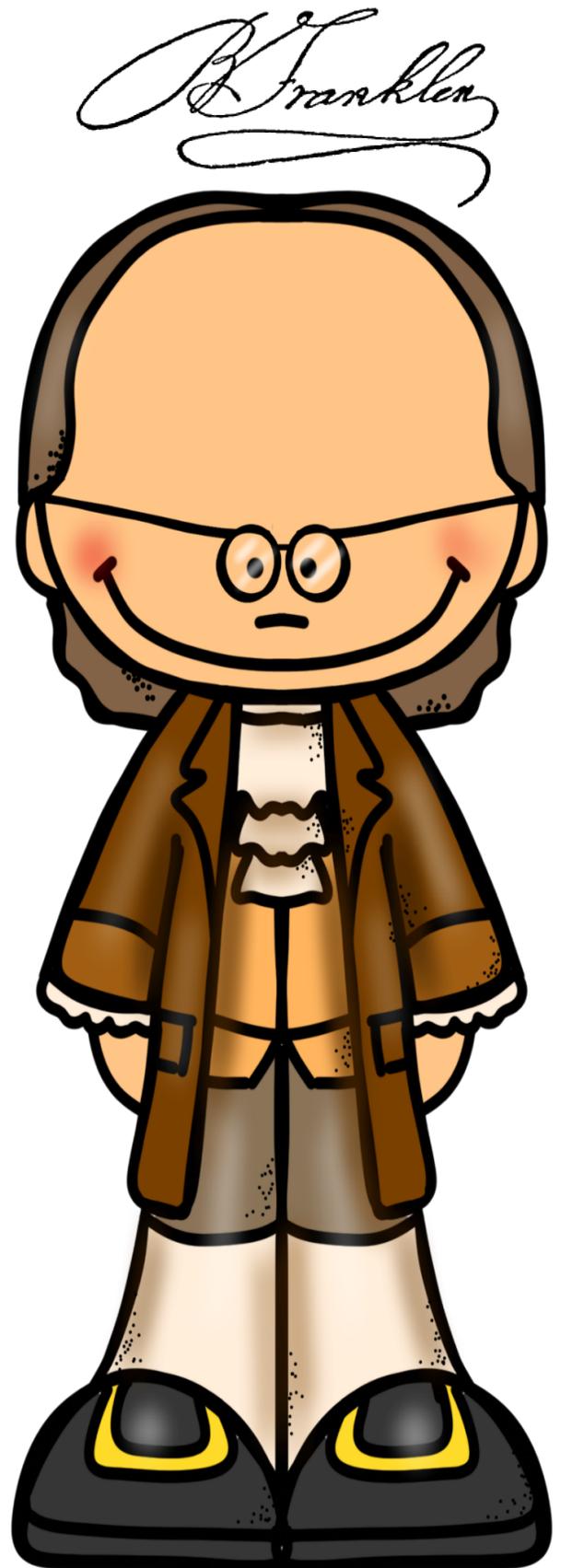


MEET BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Ben Franklin was a famous scientist, publisher, and inventor. Some of his inventions included the Franklin stove, swimming fins, and bifocal glasses. He also discovered electricity during his famous kite experiment where he flew it during a thunderstorm and received an electric shock. More importantly, Ben played a huge part in the founding of America. In 1765, King George III had begun to tax the colonies heavily and the colonists felt the taxes were unfair. Ben Franklin stayed in England and acted on behalf of the colonists. Ben tried to work things out with the King of England. But the King refused to give in. By the time he arrived back home, war had broken out.

Ben felt the colonies should be independent, so he served on the Continental Committee to write the Declaration of Independence. Ben was one of the delegates elected to help write the U.S. Constitution in May 1787. In fact, at 81 years of age, Ben was the oldest person at the Constitutional Convention.

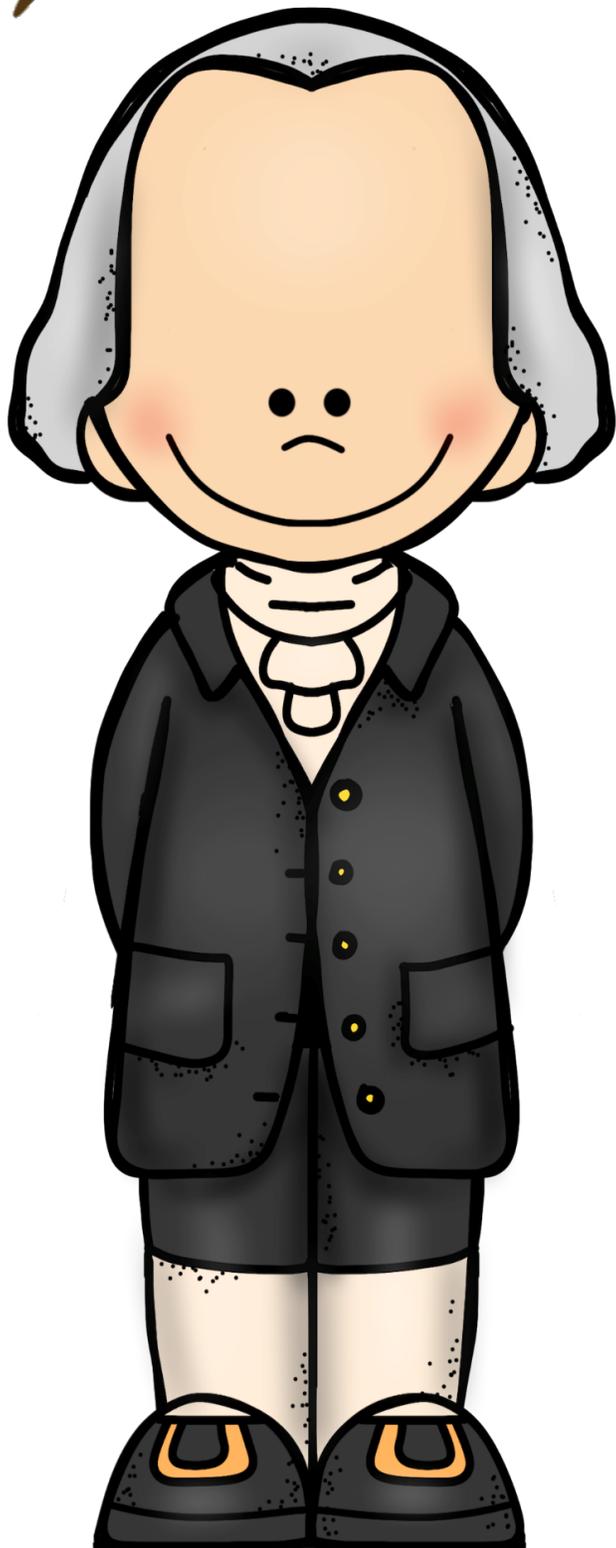
Ben spent much of his life serving his country. Today, he is still remembered for being one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America.



MEET JAMES MADISON

James Madison grew up on a tobacco farm in Virginia. He had eleven brothers and sisters. James was very smart and loved to read. After graduating college, he became a member of the Continental Congress. James took a lead role in the Constitutional Convention. James offered a new plan to create a federal government that would unite the 13 states as one nation. His plan had the three branches of government that would oversee the nation as a whole but still allow each state to make its own laws. After that, James Madison was nicknamed, "The Father of the Constitution." James also wrote many essays called the "Federalist Papers" to help people understand the benefits of a united government. He didn't stop there, next James helped get the Bill of Rights passed to protect the rights of citizens. Soon after, he became the 4th President of the United States. During his presidency, the War of 1812 broke out. The U.S. lost many battles during the war including one where the British marched into Washington D.C. and burned down the White House. His wife, Dolley, saved many important documents and a famous painting of George Washington right before the White House was burned down. James worked hard during his lifetime to keep the U.S. united together as one nation.

James Madison



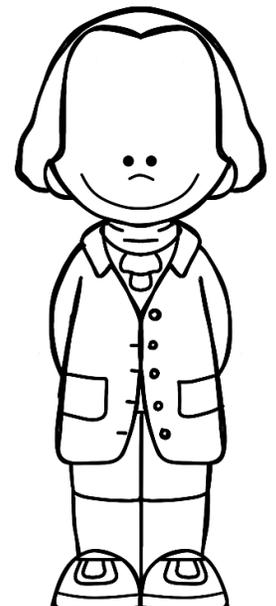
IMPORTANT LEADERS IN U.S. HISTORY

In 1775, George Washington became Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. When General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown, it ended the Revolutionary War! America was free at last! Washington won many battles for his country and became a hero! Next, George helped write up a set of laws for our new country to follow. These rules are called the United States Constitution. In 1789, George Washington was elected the 1st President of the United States. George worked hard as president to solve many problems. He watched the United States grow and prosper. When George left office, people gave speeches and threw parties to show how much they appreciated and respected this great man.



Ben Franklin was a famous scientist, publisher, and inventor. Some of his inventions included the Franklin stove, swimming fins, and bifocal glasses. He also discovered electricity during his famous kite experiment where he flew it during a thunderstorm and received an electric shock. More importantly, Ben played a huge part in the founding of America. Ben felt the colonies should be independent, so he served on the Continental Committee to write the Declaration of Independence. Ben was one of the many delegates who helped write the U.S. Constitution. At 81 years of age, he was the oldest person at the Constitutional Convention! Ben spent much of his life serving his country. Today, he is still remembered for being one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America.

James Madison took a lead role in the Constitutional Convention. James offered a new plan to create a federal government that would unite the 13 states as one nation. His plan had the three branches of government that would oversee the nation as a whole but still allow each state to make its own laws. After that, James Madison was nicknamed, "The Father of the Constitution." James also wrote many essays called the "Federalist Papers" to help people understand the benefits of a united government. Next, James helped get the Bill of Rights passed to protect the rights of citizens. Soon after, he became the 4th President of the United States. He worked hard to keep the U.S. united together as one nation.

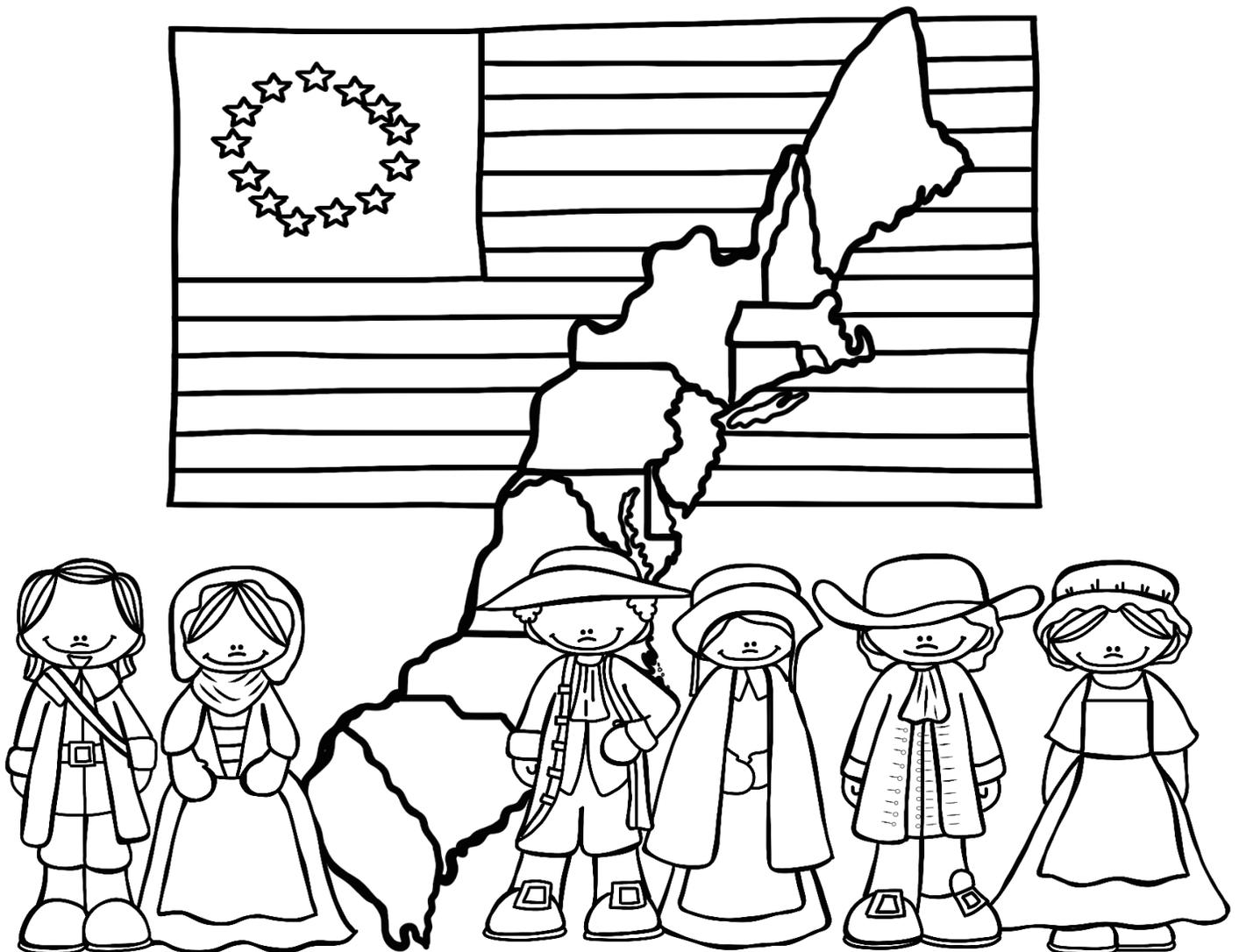


The Articles of Confederation

A week after the Declaration of Independence was written, the Second Continental Congress met to write a plan for their new government. They wrote the Articles of Confederation which stated the rules that the new government would follow.

Five years later, the Revolutionary War ended and the colonies were free at last! They looked back at the Articles of Confederation that had been written so long ago. It stated that each state would remain fully independent as if they were 13 different nations.

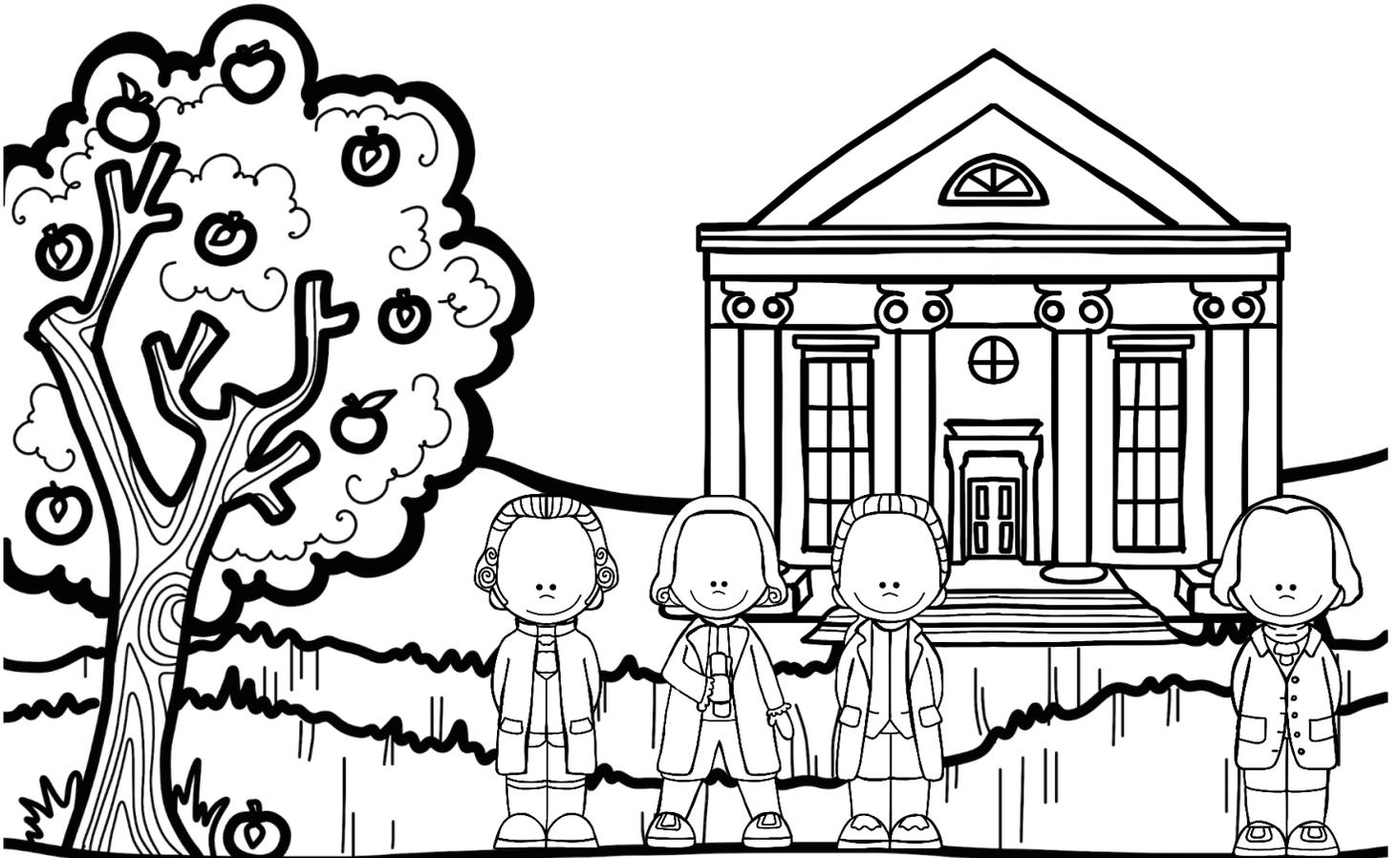
The nation needed a stronger plan of government, something that would unite them as one nation. Something that would last for the long haul and stand the test of time.



Constitutional Convention

In May 1787, 55 delegates from 12 states met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their goal was to change the Articles of Confederation, but instead they drew up a new document called the United States Constitution. This meeting was called the Constitutional Convention. It took a whole summer to write the Constitution of the United States. Guards protected the officials as they worked through the hot days of summer. General George Washington was chosen to be the leader of the convention because he was well-respected and trusted.

The framers, or writers, of the Constitution had many different ideas about how the government should work. The leaders wanted a government that would protect its citizens and also give them their rights. James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, offered a strong plan for government that would unite the 13 states under a federal government. His plan had three branches that would oversee the nation as a whole but still allow each state to make its own laws. Many of the delegates liked his idea since it seemed fair to them.



The Great Compromise

Before the Constitution could be written, there were many issues to be solved such as slavery, making changes in the future, and protecting the rights of citizens. The delegates discussed and debated all summer before coming to an agreement called, "The Great Compromise." They decided they would split Congress into two parts, called "houses". They agreed that each state would send two representatives that would make up the Senate. In the other house, called the House of Representatives, it would depend on the population of each state. In other words, states with more people would have more representatives.

After many discussions and debates, the leaders of the Constitutional Convention agreed on the final draft. Finally, on September 17, 1787, the Constitution was ready. Most of the delegates signed the Constitution when it was finished. Although it had been signed, it still needed to be approved by the states. After more discussions and compromises, the Constitution of the United States of America was officially approved on June 21, 1788.



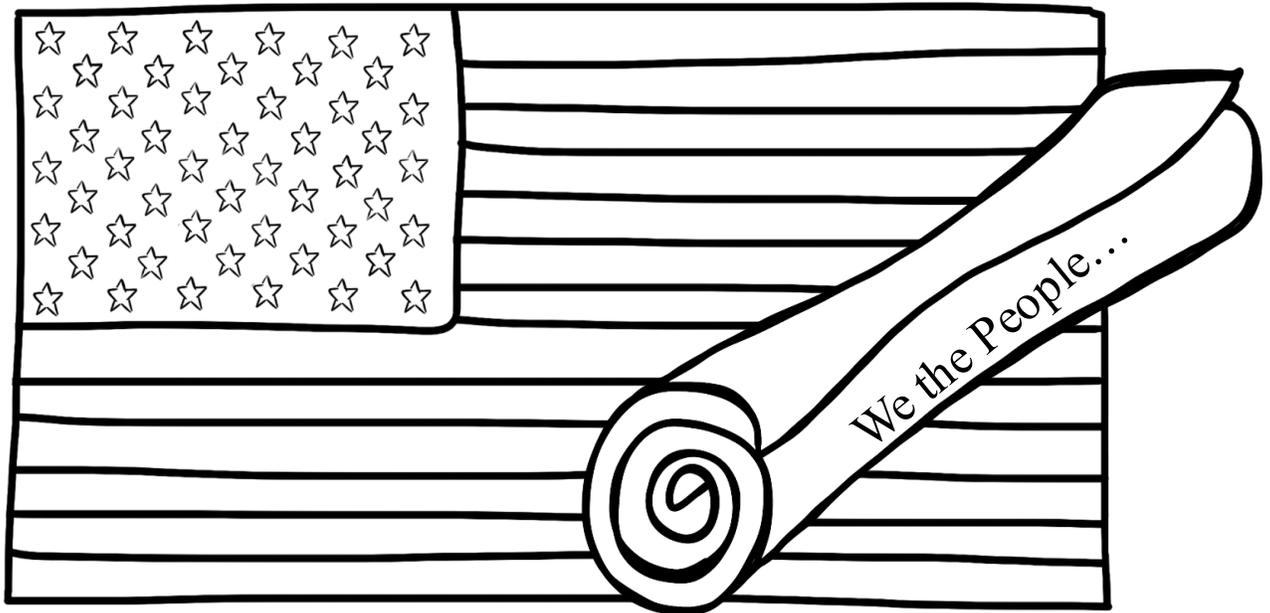
We the People...

The Constitution is like a blueprint for our federal government that tells how the government should be organized and run. The Constitution created a federal government which collects taxes and leads the military. People in all states must follow the laws passed by the federal government, but states have the power to pass their own laws, too. The Constitution separates the government into three parts or branches:

1. Executive
2. Legislative
3. Judicial

The Constitution begins with "We the People..." which means that since we all make the laws, we all need to follow them. No one is above the law. It also means it's up to us whether this is a country made up of fair or unfair laws. "We the People..." is a promise and a responsibility for all of its citizens.

President George Washington named the first national Thanksgiving Day to "give thanks" for the U.S. Constitution on November 26, 1789.



The Preamble, or beginning, of the U.S. Constitution starts out... "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 Bill of Rights

The delegates also added a way to amend, or make changes, to the Constitution in the future. Not long after the Constitution became the law of the land, 10 Amendments called, "The Bill of Rights" were added on. James Madison proposed these amendments to give people more protection from the government.

The Bill of Rights protects all Americans. The rights include "freedom of speech", which allows people to say and write what they think. The Bill of Rights promises Americans "freedom of religion," and it gives Americans "the right to a trial by jury" so that no one can be put in jail without a fair trial.

Congress added amendments to the Constitution to give the people the power to change things as the country changed and grew. In order to pass an amendment, three quarters of the states must also approve it. Since 1788, there have been more than 9,000 proposed amendments. Only 27 have passed.

Two other important amendments:

13th Amendment – ended slavery in 1865

19th Amendment – gave women the right to vote in 1920



Name: _____ The U.S. Constitution

The new nation needed a _____ plan of government, something that would unite them as _____ nation. In May 1787, officials met in _____ to create a new plan.

This meeting was called the _____.

It took a whole _____ to write the Constitution. The leaders wanted a government that would _____ its citizens and give them their _____. There were many _____ to be solved such as _____, and protecting the rights of _____. After many discussions and _____, the leaders of the convention agreed on the final version. On June 21, 1788, the United States Constitution was officially _____.

Word Bank:

protect

citizens

issues

Philadelphia

strong

summer

rights

debates

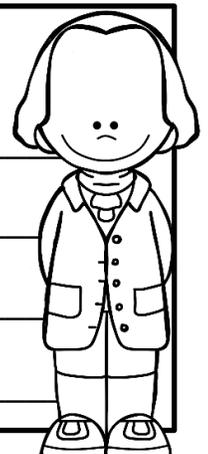
approved

Constitutional Convention

one

slavery

Why was it important to write a strong plan for government?



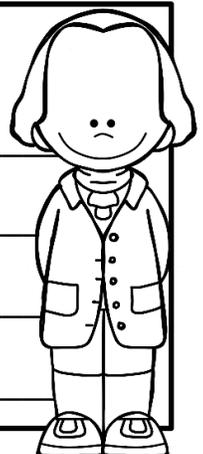
Name: ANSWER KEY The U.S. Constitution

The new nation needed a STRONG plan of government, something that would unite them as ONE nation. In May 1787, officials met in PHILADELPHIA to create a new plan. This meeting was called the CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. It took a whole SUMMER to write the Constitution. The leaders wanted a government that would PROTECT its citizens and give them their RIGHTS. There were many ISSUES to be solved such as SLAVERY, and protecting the rights of CITIZENS. After many discussions and DEBATES, the leaders of the convention agreed on the final version. On June 21, 1788, the United States Constitution was officially APPROVED.

Word Bank:

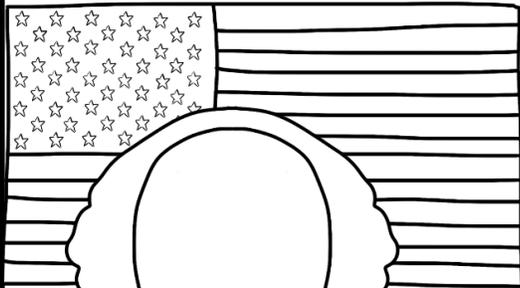
- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| protect | citizens | issues |
| Philadelphia | strong | summer |
| rights | debates | approved |
| Constitutional Convention | one | slavery |

Why was it important to write a strong plan for government?



Directions: Write 3 facts about the U.S. Constitution in the boxes.

5.



Handwriting practice box with five horizontal lines.

Handwriting practice box with five horizontal lines.

Handwriting practice box with five horizontal lines.

Name three people who were important in writing the U.S. Constitution:

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a name.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a name.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing a name.

★ U.S. History ★

Directions: Use the article about the Bill of Rights to answer the questions below.

4.

What is the Bill of Rights?

Give an example of one of our rights protected by the Bill of Rights:

Why do you think it's important to protect citizens' rights?

Bill of Rights

Directions: Put the historical events below in the correct order by writing the numbers 1-4 in the boxes below.

3.

In May 1787, 55 delegates met in Philadelphia to work on a new plan for government.

On September 17, 1787, the Constitution was finally ready and signed.

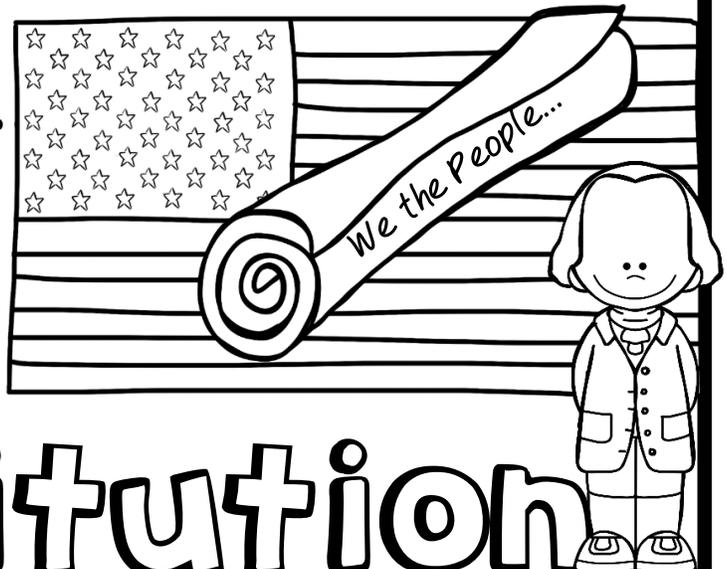
The U.S. Constitution was officially approved on June 21, 1788 and became the new law of the land.

The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution as the first 10 amendments on December 15, 1791.

Timeline

Name: _____

1.



Constitution

Word Bank:

Washington change 55 Philadelphia Constitution leader

2.

.....

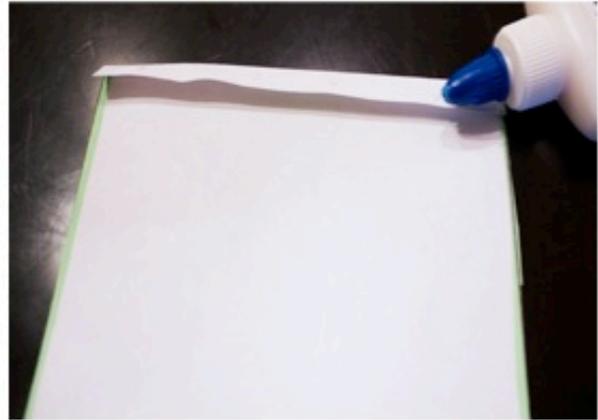
In May 1787, _____ delegates from 12 states met in _____ Their goal was to _____ the Articles of Confederation but, instead they created a new document called the U.S. _____. This meeting was called the Constitutional Convention. It took a whole summer to write the Constitution. George _____ was chosen to be the _____ of the convention because everyone trusted him.

Convention

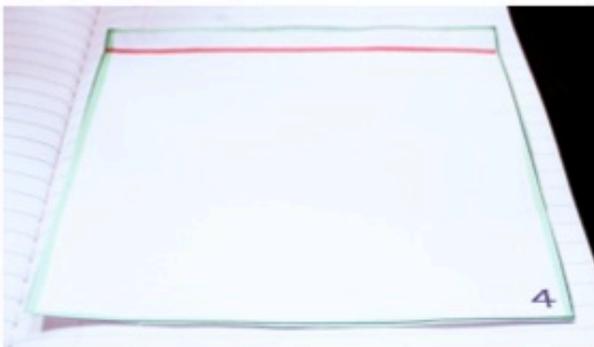
Directions for Flip Up Booklet



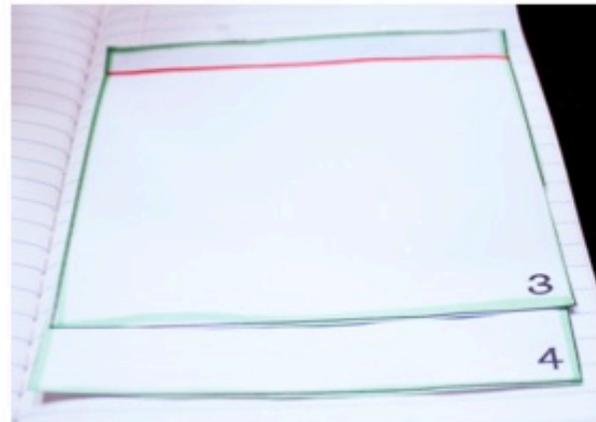
1. Fold the flaps on each "book page" forward on the dotted lines.



2. Dot glue on back of the flap of the largest book page.



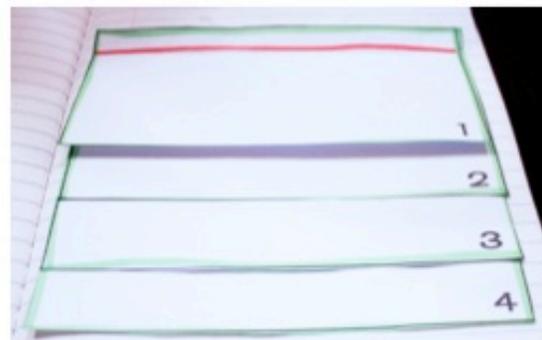
3. Place the largest book page in a notebook, a file folder, or make a cover and staple it as a regular book.



4. Put glue on the back of the flap of the next biggest book page. Place on top of the largest book page.

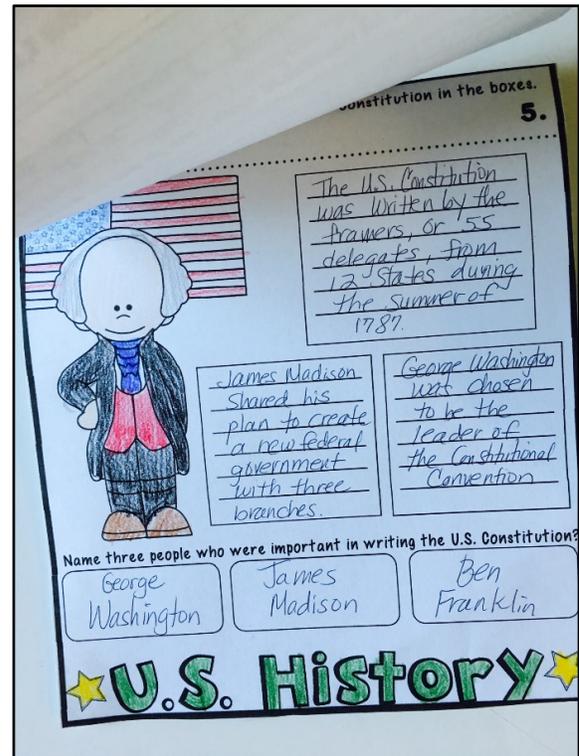
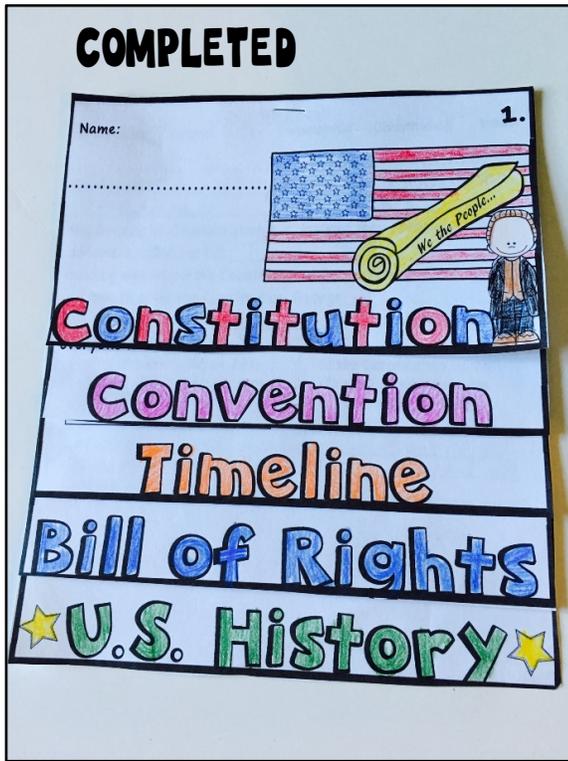


5. Make sure flaps are lined up like this.

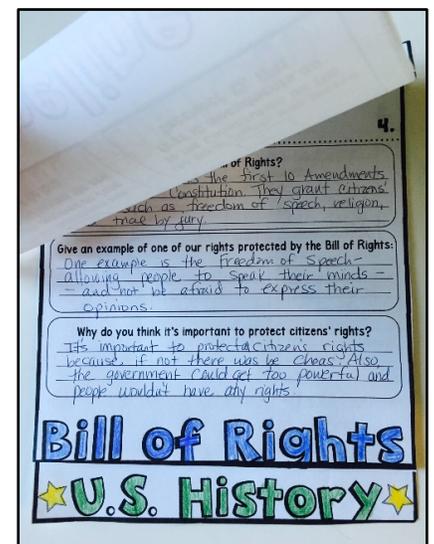
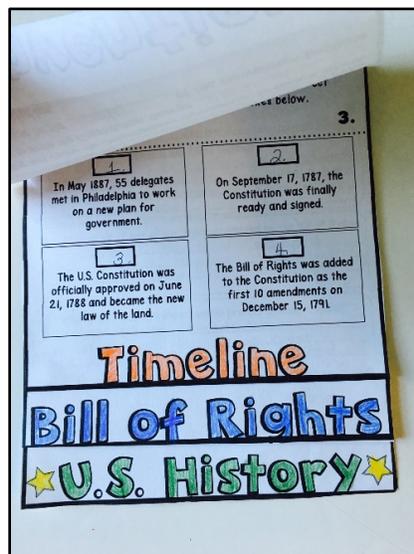
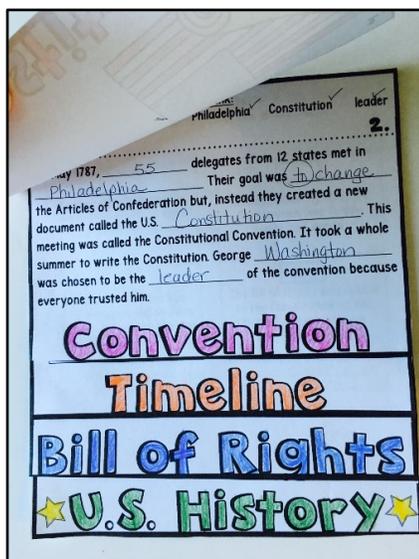


6. Repeat step four with all the pages. The smallest page will be on top.

U.S. CONSTITUTION FLIP-UP BOOKLET



You could have students do one page of the flip-up book at each center. They can use the articles as a reference source to help them complete the pages of the booklet. Lastly, they cut, color, and assemble the booklet. Flip-Up books can be glued or stapled inside their interactive notebooks, file folder, or a 12 x 18 piece of construction paper folded like a book cover. Students could then decorate the front cover of the booklet.



U.S. Constitution Vocabulary

Government

Delegates

Compromise

Constitution

Amendments

Bill of Rights

GOVERNMENT



Any group of people living together in a country, state, or community that has to live by a set of rules.

DELEGATES



A person sent to represent others, or an elected representative sent to a conference. Delegates from each state were sent to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

COMPROMISE



An agreement that is reached by each side giving in, or coming to an understanding that benefits both sides.

AMENDMENTS



A change, or addition to a legal document. The first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

CONSTITUTION



A constitution is a set of rules that guides how a country works. It tells how the branches of government work, what powers they have, and states the rights of citizens.

BILL OF RIGHTS



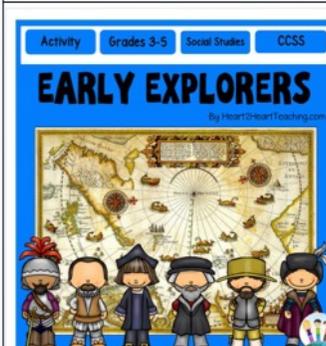
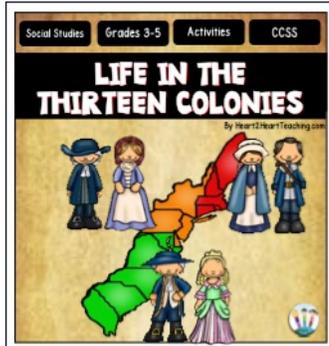
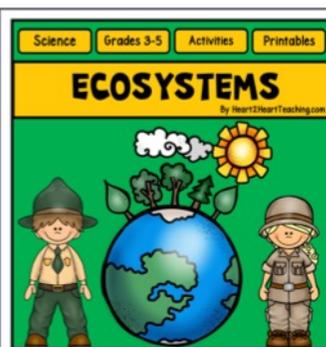
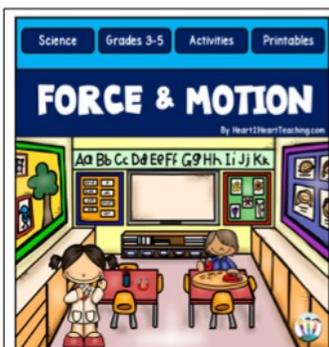
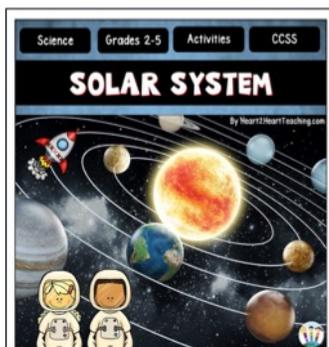
The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution giving such rights as the freedoms of speech, religion, and trial by jury.

*****Please know that I spend a lot of time researching, creating, writing, and proofreading my work but even after several revisions there may still be a typo or grammatical error. Please let me know if you find a typo or feel that a correction is needed. Just click on the Ask a Question section or email me at heart2heartteaching@gmail.com instead of leaving negative feedback so that I can fix it as soon as possible. I value your input to make my products the highest quality possible. Thank you in advance for your help and support!**

Juliette



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