

Our Supreme Law



Mini Fact:

James Madison of Virginia is called the “Father of the Constitution.”

Sept. 17 is Constitution Day. It was on that day that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in 1787.

Some schools will celebrate with a whole week of activities. The Mini Page gets started with a “spellbinding” tribute.

C is for **Constitution**. It is a set of basic laws, organizing, granting and limiting the powers of our government. It is something we all share.

O is for **Original**. The document has:

- a preamble
- seven **articles**, or sections

N is for **New Hampshire**, the ninth state to **ratify**, or approve, the Constitution.

S is for **Signers**. Thirty-nine delegates signed. Fifty-five delegates attended. Some, like George Mason, did not sign and insisted that the Bill of Rights be added.



T is for **The Bill of Rights**, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

I is for **Independence Hall** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the delegates met to write the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

T is for **Twenty-seven**, the total number of **amendments**, or additions, to the Constitution.

U is for **United States**. In the words of the **Preamble**:

“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.”

T is for **Three** branches of government.

- The **Legislative** branch is Congress.
- The **Executive** branch is headed by the president.
- The **Judicial** branch is headed by the Supreme Court.

I is for **Important Ideas**, such as separation of powers, checks and balances and enumerated powers.

O is for **Ours**. When our Constitution was first created in 1787, our country had 13 states and 4 million people. Today we have 50 states and more than 300 million people.

N is for **National Archives**. The Constitution is on display at this building in Washington, D.C.

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Constitution are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AMENDMENTS, ARTICLES,
BILL, BRANCHES,
CONSTITUTION,
EXECUTIVE,
GOVERNMENT, IDEAS,
INDEPENDENCE, JUDICIAL,
LAWS, LEGISLATIVE,
MADISON, PREAMBLE,
RATIFY, RIGHTS, SIGNERS,
STATE.

P	L	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	S	A	E	D	I
R	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	I	V	E	E	S	S
E	I	N	E	C	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I
A	B	T	H	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	G
M	A	D	I	S	O	N	P	R	A	T	I	F	Y	N
B	I	H	T	F	E	V	I	T	U	C	E	X	E	E
L	W	A	L	A	M	E	N	D	M	E	N	T	S	R
E	T	K	L	A	I	C	I	D	U	J	L	A	W	S
E	N	O	I	T	U	T	I	T	S	N	O	C	W	P
A	R	T	I	C	L	E	S	Q	S	T	H	G	I	R

Cook's Corner

Tuna Salad on Whole-Grain Crackers

You'll need:

- 1 (2.6-ounce) packet light tuna in water
- 1 tablespoon light mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon finely diced celery
- 1 tablespoon finely diced roasted red peppers

- Salt and ground black pepper
- 6 whole-grain crackers



What to do:

1. In a small bowl, combine tuna and mayonnaise and mix well.
2. Fold in celery and red peppers. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Serve tuna salad on crackers, or refrigerate tuna until ready to serve. Serves 1.

Adapted from “The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families” with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. smartphone programs (4) _____
2. metal made from iron (5) _____
3. path near a road (8) _____
4. a place to work (6) _____
5. covered with grime (5) _____
6. keep safe (5) _____
7. book of things to buy (7) _____

OFF	GUA	EL	EW
RTY	CAT	OG	ICE
PS	SID	DI	AP
ALK	RD	STE	AL



Answers: apps, steel, sidewalk, office, dirty, guard, catalog.

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The Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to our Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. They are:

First: Guarantees freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly and petition.

Second: Guarantees the right to own and carry weapons.

Third: Limits government from forcing citizens to keep soldiers in their homes.

Fourth: Limits searches and seizures.

Fifth: Grants rights concerning criminal treatment and trials. Also protects citizens from the government taking their property.

Sixth: Grants further rights for those accused of a crime, such as a speedy trial and a fair jury.

Seventh: Grants rights for people involved in civil cases (disagreements between two people or people and their government).

Eighth: Protects people from unreasonable fines or cruel punishment for crimes.

Ninth: Entitles citizens to rights not listed in the Constitution.

Tenth: Says that powers not given to the U.S. government by the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people.

Resources



On the Web:

- [archives.gov/founding-docs](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs)

At the library:

- “What Is the Constitution?” by Patricia Demuth
- “A Kids’ Guide to America’s Bill of Rights” by Kathleen Krull

Mini Jokes



James: What should you do when an elephant stubs his toe and can't walk?

Ben: Call a toe truck!

Eco Note



Do you ever notice an **air quality index** (AQI) on a weather app or a newspaper weather report? Sometimes the air can be dirty, but you can't see it or smell it. So you need another way to tell if the air is dirty. The AQI uses colors to tell us how clean the air is. Green is clean; maroon is very dirty. We see a lot of yellow, orange and red AQI colors in the summer when air quality often isn't at its best. You can find the AQI for your state or city at **airnow.gov**.

adapted from epa.gov

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Constitution Day.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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