PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

Six Goals, Key Terms, Sort - Grades 6-8

6 GOALS

25 STUDENT PAGES

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the goal it describes.

Union	Justice	Tranquility
Defense	**Welfare**	**Liberty**

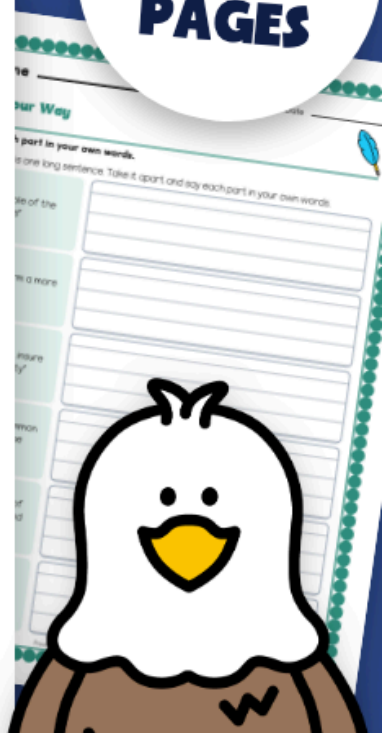
Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Leaders work for the good of all, not a few.	Many states act together as one nation.	Freedom today and for children to come.
People can live in peace at home.	Courts treat people fairly under the law.	The country is protected from attack.

Which two goals were hardest to tell apart? Why?

Preamble to the Constitution – Cut and Paste 1





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- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter, a year, a goal number or a word. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the own-words and example boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** The goal in the Preamble's own words, a short passage, two ruled boxes and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Meet, Read, Key Terms	3 sheets, 15 items	True or false on the big idea; the Preamble's own words with three blanks; match eight terms.
6 Goal Readings	12 checks	Read one goal, say it in your own words, give an example, answer two checks with a letter.
Say It Your Way, Which Goal?	3 sheets, 8 items	Paraphrase six parts of the Preamble; name the goal each example shows.
True or False, Timeline, Case	3 sheets, 16 items	Check facts, put seven years on a timeline, match a club's wishes to goals.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	6 questions, 2 organizer sheets	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (match, in or not, order).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 30 to 33.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one goal in plain words. It is not a complete history, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, copy of the Constitution or source for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Own-words boxes, Say It Your Way, short answers, the case study and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the Preamble and the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Meet the Preamble



Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

The United States has a plan of government called the Constitution. It begins with one short paragraph.

What it is	A preamble is an opening statement that explains why a document was written. The Constitution of the United States has one. It is a single sentence, 52 words long.
When	Delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787 and signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. The states then voted on it, and the new government began in 1789.
Who is speaking	The first words are "We the People of the United States." The people, not a king, are setting up this government.
The goals	The Preamble names six goals for the new government. You will read about one goal at a time on pages 7 to 12.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

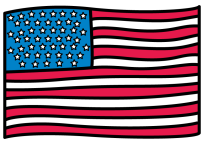
1. The Preamble comes at the very beginning of the Constitution. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
2. The Preamble lists the powers of the President. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
3. The Constitution was written by a king. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**
4. The Preamble names six goals for the new government. ☐ **true** ☐ **false**

In your own words: what is a preamble for?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Goal 1: A More Perfect Union

Read about the goal. Then say it in your own words.

> The goal: "to form a more perfect Union"
> Goal 1 of 6 in the Preamble

Before 1787, the thirteen states were tied together by the Articles of Confederation. Under that plan, the national government was weak. It could ask the states for money, but it could not make them pay, and each state often acted like a small country of its own. States argued over trade and taxes, and the country had trouble speaking with one voice. In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia and wrote a new plan. They opened it with a goal: to form a more perfect Union. A union is a joining together. "More perfect" did not mean flawless. It meant better and more complete than what they had. The delegates wanted states that worked together as one nation, with a national government strong enough to hold them together.

Say it in your own words: what does this goal mean?

Where could you see this goal at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What does a union mean? ☐
   - **A** A joining together of separate parts
   - **B** A list of laws
   - **C** A group of workers

2. What was a problem with the Articles of Confederation? ☐
   - **A** The national government had too much power over the states.
   - **B** The national government could not make the states pay.
   - **C** Trade between the states was against the law.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Goal 3: Domestic Tranquility



Read about the goal. Then say it in your own words.

> The goal: "insure domestic Tranquility"
> Goal 3 of 6 in the Preamble

Domestic means "at home," inside the country, and tranquility means peace and calm. This goal is about keeping the peace within the nation. The delegates remembered Shays' Rebellion. In 1786 and 1787, farmers in western Massachusetts shut down courts to protest their debts and taxes, and the state raised a militia to end the protest. Many leaders worried that the national government was too weak to help a state in trouble. They believed a stronger national government could help keep order at home. The Preamble names the goal only. The later parts of the Constitution explain the powers that would work toward it.

Say it in your own words: what does this goal mean?

Where could you see this goal at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What does domestic mean in this goal? ☐
   - **A** Far away, in another country
   - **B** Having to do with money
   - **C** At home, inside the country

2. Which event made leaders worry about keeping order? ☐
   - **A** The Mayflower Compact
   - **B** Shays' Rebellion
   - **C** The Declaration of Independence

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Goal 5: The General Welfare



Read about the goal. Then say it in your own words.

> The goal: "promote the general Welfare"
> Goal 5 of 6 in the Preamble

General means for everyone, and welfare means well-being, such as safety, health and a good life. To promote the general Welfare is to work for the good of all the people, not only a few. The delegates came from states with different needs, and farmers, merchants and workers did not always want the same things. This goal asks leaders to think about what is good for the whole country. A steady system of money and fair rules for trade between the states are examples of things the new government could work on. Over the years, citizens and leaders have disagreed about the best ways to promote the general Welfare, and that disagreement is part of American history. The Preamble names the purpose, and it does not list every step.

Say it in your own words: what does this goal mean?

Where could you see this goal at work in a school or a town? Give one example.

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What does general welfare mean? ☐
   - **A** The good of all the people
   - **B** The wealth of a few leaders
   - **C** A rule for the army

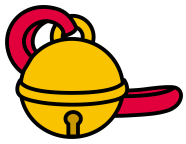
2. Which of these is an example of something that could help the whole country? ☐
   - **A** A rule that helps one town only
   - **B** A tax paid only by the President
   - **C** Fair rules for trade between the states

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Key Terms



Write the letter of each meaning.

1	general welfare		A	to set something up officially, by order
2	justice		B	peace and calm
3	ordain		C	a written agreement between nations
4	union		D	separate parts joined together as one
5	preamble		E	the generations who will come after us
6	common defense		F	the power to reject a proposed law
7	posterity		G	protection from attack that is shared by all
8	tranquility		H	treating people fairly, with the same rules for everyone
			I	an opening statement that tells why a document was written
			J	the well-being of all the people

Two of the meanings are not used.

Use two of the words in one sentence about the Preamble.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Which Goal? A



Write the goal number for each one. Then tell how you know.

1 Union	2 Justice	3 Tranquility	4 Defense	5 Welfare	6 Liberty

Which goal does each one show? Use the goal numbers in the box.

1. Every house on a street chips in for one alarm system that protects the whole block. **Goal** ☐

2. Six neighborhood clubs agree to join together as one league with one set of rules. **Goal** ☐

3. A town council protects free speech at its meetings and plans for that freedom to last for the next generation. **Goal** ☐

4. A judge hears from both sides before deciding, and the same rules apply to everyone in the room. **Goal** ☐

Pick one. How do you know which goal it shows?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

True or False?



Check true or false. Then fix two false sentences.

Read each sentence. Check true or false.

1. The Preamble lists the powers of Congress. ☐ true ☐ false

2. The Preamble begins with the words "We the People." ☐ true ☐ false

3. Domestic tranquility means peace at home, inside the country. ☐ true ☐ false

4. Posterity means people who lived long ago. ☐ true ☐ false

5. The Preamble says a king made the Constitution. ☐ true ☐ false

6. The Constitution was signed in Philadelphia in 1787. ☐ true ☐ false

Pick a false sentence. Write it again so it is true.

Pick another false sentence. Write it again so it is true.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Case Study: The Robotics Club

Read the story. Match each goal. Then write.

The Robotics Club at a middle school is writing a preamble for its own rules. Ana wants every member to be treated fairly when teams are picked. Theo wants the club to stay calm when members disagree. Sam wants every member to get time with the robot and help when they need it. The club cannot agree which goal should come first.

AN INVENTED CLUB, MADE UP FOR THIS PAGE.

1. Ana's goal matches Goal number: ☐
2. Theo's goal matches Goal number: ☐
3. Sam's goal matches Goal number: ☐

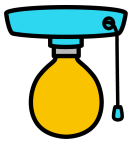
4. Say in your own words what Theo's goal asks the club to do.

5. Which goal would you put first for the club? Give a reason.

6. Write a one-sentence Preamble for the club. Begin "We the members of the Robotics Club..." and name two goals.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Which goal of the Preamble matters most for people today?
Pick one goal from the readings, pages 7 to 12.

I believe that ____ matters most. The Preamble says ____. This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Which goal do you pick?

Evidence: What does the Preamble say about it? Give two facts from the readings.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the goal it describes.

Union	Justice	Tranquility

Defense	Welfare	Liberty

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Leaders work for the good of all, not a few.	Many states act together as one nation.	Freedom today and for children to come.
People can live in peace at home.	Courts treat people fairly under the law.	The country is protected from attack.

Which two goals were hardest to tell apart? Why?

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 3

Cut out the six pieces. Paste them in order.

Paste the events in order, first to last. The timeline page (page 18) can help.

First	Second	Third

Fourth	Fifth	Sixth

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

The ninth state approves the new plan.	The Declaration of Independence: the colonies say they are free.	The Constitution is signed in Philadelphia.
The new government begins its work.	The Articles of Confederation: the first national plan takes effect.	Shays' Rebellion: farmers protest in western Massachusetts.

Which event on the timeline do you think mattered most to the Preamble? Why?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part B

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

7 Which goal means the good of all the people?

A Promote the general Welfare
B Secure the Blessings of Liberty
C Form a more perfect Union

8 Which of these is NOT a goal named in the Preamble?

A Establish Justice
B Provide for the common defense
C Choose the Speaker of the House

9 Why did leaders want a "more perfect Union"?

A The national government was too weak to hold the states together
B The king asked for one
C There were too many courts

10 What made some leaders worry about keeping order at home?

A A plan to move the capital
B Shays' Rebellion
C A new canal

11 Which phrase speaks of freedom now and in the future?

A Insure domestic Tranquility
B Provide for the common defense
C Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

12 What happened in 1788?

A The Bill of Rights was added
B The Declaration of Independence was adopted
C The ninth state approved the Constitution

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Reading and Words

Meet the Preamble, Read the Preamble, the 12 checks that follow the readings, and Key Terms.

Readings: the checks pages 7 to 12

#	Goal	Answer
1	Union	A: A joining together of separate parts
2	Union	B: The national government could not make the states …
1	Justice	B: Fair treatment under the law
2	Justice	C: The Supreme Court
1	Tranquility	C: At home, inside the country
2	Tranquility	B: Shays' Rebellion
1	Defense	C: Shared by everyone
2	Defense	A: It asked the states to send them.
1	Welfare	A: The good of all the people
2	Welfare	C: Fair rules for trade between the states
1	Liberty	C: People who will live after us
2	Liberty	B: Ourselves and our Posterity

Meet the Preamble page 5

#	Starts with	Answer
1	The Preamble comes at the very …	True
2	The Preamble lists the powers of …	False
3	The Constitution was written by a …	False
4	The Preamble names six goals for …	True

Read the Preamble page 6

#	Asks	Answer
1	How many goals	6
2	a more perfect ____	Union
3	the Blessings of ____	Liberty

Key Terms page 13 (unused meanings: C and F)

#	Word	Letter
1	general welfare	J
2	justice	H
3	ordain	A
4	union	D
5	preamble	I
6	common defense	G
7	posterity	E
8	tranquility	B

How the checks were made

Every reading was written so each check has one best answer that is stated in the passage. If a student picks another letter, point to the sentence that settles it.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Quiz, Written, Sorts

The quiz, the short answers and the three cut-and-paste mats.

Quiz pages 27, 28

#	Starts with	Answer
1	How many goals does the …	A: Six
2	What do the first three …	A: The government's power comes from …
3	What does "insure domestic Tranquility" …	C: Keep the peace inside the …
4	Which goal is about protecting …	B: Provide for the common defense
5	In what year did delegates …	C: 1787
6	What is a preamble?	B: An opening statement that explains …
7	Which goal means the good …	A: Promote the general Welfare
8	Which of these is NOT …	C: Choose the Speaker of the …
9	Why did leaders want a …	A: The national government was too …
10	What made some leaders worry …	B: Shays' Rebellion
11	Which phrase speaks of freedom …	C: Secure the Blessings of Liberty …
12	What happened in 1788?	C: The ninth state approved the …

Think It Through pages 20, 21

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	Why did the writers begin …	The words show that the government's power comes from the people, not from a king, and that the people are the ones setting it up.
2	Pick two of the six …	Open answer. Two goals are named and each is explained with its own meaning, such as Justice (fair treatment) and common defense (protection from attack).
3	Why would a country want …	Peace inside the country lets people live, work and trade safely. Shays' Rebellion showed leaders what disorder could look like.
4	Why did the Articles of …	Under the Articles the national government was weak and the states often acted on their own, so the writers wanted a stronger union.
5	How is the Preamble different …	The Preamble states purposes and goals. The later parts set up the government and describe its powers.
6	Which goal do you think …	Open answer. Look for one goal named, a reason, and a connection to what the goal asks.

Cut and Paste 1 page 24

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Leaders work for the good …	Welfare
r1 c2: Many states act together as …	Union
r1 c3: Freedom today and for children …	Liberty
r2 c1: People can live in peace …	Tranquility
r2 c2: Courts treat people fairly under …	Justice
r2 c3: The country is protected from …	Defense

Cut and Paste 2 page 25

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Coin money	Not named in the Preamble
r1 c2: Establish Justice	A goal named in the Preamble
r1 c3: Declare war	Not named in the Preamble
r2 c1: Promote the general Welfare	A goal named in the Preamble
r2 c2: Choose the Speaker of the …	Not named in the Preamble
r2 c3: Secure the Blessings of Liberty	A goal named in the Preamble

Cut and Paste 3 page 26

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: The ninth state approves the …	Fifth
r1 c2: The Declaration of Independence: the …	First
r1 c3: The Constitution is signed in …	Fourth
r2 c1: The new government begins its …	Sixth
r2 c2: The Articles of Confederation: the …	Second
r2 c3: Shays' Rebellion: farmers protest in …	Third

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. On Cut and Paste 3 the boxes are first to sixth, so the box is the event's place in time.

PREVIEW

Preamble Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 38.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Meet the Preamble	4			
6	Read the Preamble	3			
7	Goal 1: A More Perfect Union	2			
8	Goal 2: Establish Justice	2			
9	Goal 3: Domestic Tranquility	2			
10	Goal 4: The Common Defense	2			
11	Goal 5: The General Welfare	2			
12	Goal 6: The Blessings of Liberty	2			
13	Key Terms	8			
15	Which Goal? A	4			
16	Which Goal? B	4			
17	True or False?	6			
18	Timeline	7			
19	Case Study: The Robotics Club	3			
24	Cut and Paste 1	6			
25	Cut and Paste 2	6			
26	Cut and Paste 3	6			
27	Quiz, Part A	6			
28	Quiz, Part B	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 81 items on the 19 scored sheets. Answer keys: pages 30 to 33. Filled example: page 38.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Meet and Read the Preamble			
Goal readings			
Key terms			
Which goal, true or false			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Said the meaning of ___ of the 6 goals in their own words without a prompt.
- Matched ___ of ___ examples to the right goal (pages 15, 16).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (22, 23): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Explained what a preamble is in their own words: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Key Terms with no prompt on 9/29. Next step: act out ordain and preamble with an example from the readings." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 38.

PREVIEW

Dana's Tracker (Invented Student)

Dana R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 34.

Student: Dana R. (an invented student)

Teacher: Mr. Hale (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Meet the Preamble	4	4	9/22	-
6	Read the Preamble	3	2	9/23	Missed how many goals
7	Goal 1: A More Perfect Union	2	2	9/24	-
8	Goal 2: Establish Justice	2	1	9/25	Missed the court question
9	Goal 3: Domestic Tranquility	2	-	-	-
10	Goal 4: The Common Defense	2	-	-	-
11	Goal 5: The General Welfare	2	-	-	-
12	Goal 6: The Blessings of Liberty	2	-	-	-
13	Key Terms	8	6	9/29	Mixed up ordain and preamble
15	Which Goal? A	4	3	10/1	Mixed up justice and welfare
16	Which Goal? B	4	-	-	-
17	True or False?	6	5	10/3	Marked one false sentence true
18	Timeline	7	-	-	-
19	Case Study: The Robotics Club	3	-	-	-
24	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
26	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-
27	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
28	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-

PREVIEW

How to read it

Dana R. has done **7 of 19** scored sheets and got **23 of 29** items right with no prompt. **2** sheets were all right and **5** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Goal 2: Establish Justice (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 12 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.