



Celebrate the Constitution Fifth Grade

The students will:

- Recite the following text, from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."
- Understand the meaning of the Preamble of the US Constitution.

TEKS:

(15) Government. The student understands important ideas in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The student is expected to:

(B) explain the purposes of the U.S. Constitution as identified in the Preamble; and

Vocabulary:

- Celebrate Freedom Week
- Constitution
- Justice
- Tranquility

Materials:

- Frayer Model (copy for each student)
- Children's book: *We the Kids* by David Catrow (reserve from the library)
- [School House Rock Constitution](#) video (additional resource)
- [School House Rock Preamble](#) video
- [Lone Star Celebrates Freedom \(optional\)](#)

Teaching Strategies:

1. Introduce the lesson by reminding students that it is Celebrate Freedom Week. Because of this, we will recite the beginning of the Declaration of Independence - Recite the following text: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."
2. Explain to students that those that signed the Declaration of Independence knew that a Constitution would be necessary to guide the country. The Constitution is a set of laws. Ask students, "What is a law?" Provide students with the Frayer model handout and (individually or with a partner) they will create a Frayer model to define/describe the vocabulary word - LAW.

3. Once completed, class will discuss “What is a law?” Ask students:
 - a. What are some examples of laws?
 - b. What would happen if we didn’t have laws?
 - c. Why are laws important?
4. When our country was just beginning, we needed good, solid laws to establish order, promote security and to manage conflict. The set of rules our founding fathers created was the Constitution, and we still live by it today!
5. Watch [School House Rock Preamble](#) video. If time, you can also watch the [School House Rock Constitution](#) video.
6. Read children’s book: *We the Kids*. Discuss what each part of the Preamble means and why it is important to us still today.
7. Group students into 5 groups: Establish justice, Insure domestic tranquility, Provide for the common defense, Promote the general welfare, and Secure the blessings of liberty
8. Each group should define the words in their section of the preamble and illustrate what it means. The groups can create a song, poem, chant, rap, or short skit to act out what it means.
9. Have groups act out their section of the preamble in order for the class.

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FRAYER MODEL

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