



The Mini Page

Next Week:
International Day of Peace

Issue 37, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam



Mini Fact:

The first 10 Amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

Our Constitution

The U.S. Constitution is a set of basic laws organizing, granting and limiting the powers of our government. It is something that all American citizens share.

This week, we celebrate Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, with an issue about this historic document.



photo courtesy National Archives

The Constitution is on display at the National Archives building in Washington, D.C. An archives is a place where important documents are preserved.

Along with the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights are on display in the **rotunda** of the National Archives.

Constitution Fact-a-roonies

- It was created in Philadelphia ...
- during the summer of 1787 ...
- in secret ...
- in about 100 days.
- It has 39 signers ...
- and is made up of a

preamble, seven **articles** and 27 **amendments**, which were added later.



• The original Constitution is handwritten on four parchment pages. Each page is about 29 inches high and 24 inches wide.

• Our Constitution is the longest-lasting written national constitution in the world.

Over 237 years, our leaders and citizens have added amendments, which are changes to the existing law. For example, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1919.

Father of the Constitution

James Madison was a smart student of government and a great statesman. He was a friend of Thomas Jefferson.



James Madison

Madison was only 36 when the Constitution was written. He influenced what went on at the Constitutional Convention more than any other delegate.

He wrote a plan for the new government, the Virginia Plan. Many of his ideas were adopted. He also took many notes and wrote up detailed reports. His records are our best sources of what went on. These were not published until after his death.

After serving as secretary of state under Thomas Jefferson, he was elected as our fourth president. He lived longer than any other signer. He died at the age of 85 in 1836.

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photo courtesy the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court

Big ideas in government

Inside the Constitution are several big ideas:

• **Separation of powers:** The delegates to the Constitutional Convention feared that giving too much power to any person or group could be dangerous. So they created three **branches**, or parts, of government: **executive**, **legislative** and **judicial**.

• **Checks and balances:** This idea limits the power of each government branch. No single branch can overpower the others. Often, each branch needs the help of the others to do its job.

• **Enumerated (e-NOOM-er-ated) powers:** the listed powers of government.

• **Implied powers:** the powers that are not listed but suggested.

• **Federalism:** the idea that our government divides powers between the national government and the state governments.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPConstitutionWeek

At the library:

- "We the People: The United States Constitution Explored and Explained" by Aura Lewis and Evan Sargent

Try 'n' Find

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



AMENDMENTS, ARCHIVES, ARTICLES, BALANCES, BILL, CHECKS, CONSTITUTION, EXECUTIVE, GOVERNMENT, JUDICIAL, LAWS, LEGISLATIVE, MADISON, PARCHMENT, PREAMBLE, RIGHTS, SIGNERS.

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



Cook's Corner

Easy Banana Pancakes

You'll need:

- 2 ripe bananas
- 1/2 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup rolled oats

- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs



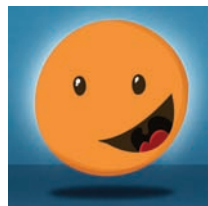
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Place all ingredients in a small blender. Process until smooth.
2. Heat skillet and coat with cooking spray.
3. Pour batter into heated skillet and cook as pancakes, flipping when edges bubble.
4. Serve with syrup or fresh fruit. Serves 4.

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. shirt part around the neck (6) _____
2. pull apart like Silly Putty (7) _____
3. blue "Inside Out" character (7) _____
4. pilots fly them (6) _____
5. avoid (5) _____
6. Will and Jada's acting son (5) _____
7. behind three people in line (6) _____

NES	SS	JA	ET
LAR	DEN	PLA	RTH
GE	NE	COL	SAD
STR	DOD	FOU	CH

Answers: collar, stretch, sadness, planes, dodge, jaden, fourth.

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Mini Jokes



Maddie: What's a balloon's least favorite music?
Jeff: Pop songs!

Eco Note



Geologists in northern Minnesota's Iron Range say a recently discovered reservoir of helium pierced by drilling could be the richest in the world. The discovery could mean a bonanza not only for party balloons, but also for the manufacturing of semiconductors and uses in high-energy particle colliders and nuclear reactors. Helium is scarce, forming in nature only through the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium. There have been regular helium shortages worldwide this century.



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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the branches of government.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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