

The Mini Page

Issue 37, 2022

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Latin American countries

Let's Visit History



photo courtesy National Archives

We celebrate Constitution Day on Sept. 17. This year, The Mini Page explores our Charters of Freedom.

What are the Charters?

These are our nation's most treasured documents. They are on parchment, which is a thin piece of animal skin.

More than 200 years ago, clerks used feather pens and ink to write the words of each document in large letters. This is called **engrossing**.

The documents were then signed by our Founding Fathers.

• The Declaration of Independence

With this one-page document, written in 1776, we declared our freedom from England and the right of people to govern themselves.

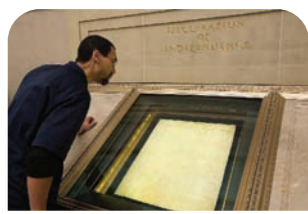


photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration

• The U.S. Constitution

With these four pages, written in 1787, the founders created our nation's government and described the basic rights we enjoy as a people.



photo by Mr. TimFD

This photo was taken at the Archives when photography was still allowed. Today, visitors are not permitted to take pictures.

• The Bill of Rights

On this one-page document, written in 1789, are the first 10 **amendments**, or additions, to the Constitution. Together, the amendments list the basic rights and freedoms that each American has.



James Madison wrote the Bill of Rights.

Keeping them safe

The Charters of Freedom and other important papers are stored inside the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

For more than 200 years, we have guarded our Charters of Freedom. Sometimes they were moved to safer places.

For example, when British soldiers attacked the U.S. capital in 1814, the Declaration and Constitution were put in a linen bag and moved to safety. They were first hidden in an unused mill near the Potomac River, and then hidden in a vault beneath the steps of a house. When it was safe again, they were returned to Washington.

Today, the cases housing the documents are made of metal and glass. The glass does not touch the parchments, and a gas called **argon** fills the cases.

The cases are in positions where all visitors, including children and people in wheelchairs, can easily see them.

Why Sept. 17?

Each year, we remember the day when the U.S. Constitution was signed by members of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.

The four-page document contains 4,543 words, including the signatures of the 39 men who signed it.

That summer, it took about 100 days of work for delegates to write the document. Today, it takes about half an hour to read it.

Viewing the Charters

Seeing the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights with our own eyes helps us to appreciate our freedom and the meaning of democracy.

The documents are a popular attraction. In the past, more than a million people have visited the National Archives building each year to see them.



photo courtesy National Archives

The documents are displayed in the Rotunda, a large, round part of the building with a dome ceiling.

Resources



On the Web:

- museum.archives.gov/founding-documents

At the library:

- "Constitution Q&A: 175+ Fascinating Facts for Kids" by Elizabeth Raum

The Mini Page® © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Try 'n' Find

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



- AMENDMENT,
- ARCHIVES, ARGON,
- BILL, BRITISH, CHARTER,
- CONSTITUTION,
- DECLARATION,
- DOCUMENT,
- ENGROSSING, FATHERS,
- FREEDOM, HISTORY,
- MADISON, PARCHMENT,
- RIGHTS, ROTUNDA, SAFE.

S N O I T U T I T S N O C N O
 A A A A Z S E D O C U M E N T
 R D F M D E C L A R A T I O N
 M F A E C B A R C H I V E S Z
 O A D N H I B R I T I S H N S
 D T N D A L N H I S T O R Y T
 E H U M R L C N O S I D A M H
 E E T E T E N G R O S S I N G
 R R O N E T V B N O G R A F I
 F S R T R P A R C H M E N T R

Cook's Corner

Twisty Parmesan Breadsticks

You'll need:

- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup milk

- 1 (16.3-ounce) can refrigerated biscuits



What to do:

1. In a bowl, mix together salt and Parmesan cheese. Set aside.
2. In another bowl, pour the milk.
3. With clean hands, cut biscuits in half. Stretch out each one into a 3-inch roll and twist.
4. Dip each twist in milk.
5. Then dip each twist in the cheese mixture until it is well-coated.
6. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet in a preheated 400-degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes until lightly browned. Remove from oven and serve warm. Serves 16.

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

The Mini Page® © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Mini Jokes



Frank: What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?

Fiona: One has a bill on his face, and the other has his face on a bill!

Eco Note



Earth spun on its axis just an itsy bitsy teenie weenie bit faster on June 29, causing us to experience the shortest day since measurements began in the 1960s. By using high-precision atomic clocks, scientists determined that Earth completed its spin that day just 1.59 milliseconds shy of 24 hours. Influences such as earthquakes, El Niño, the moon's gravity, storms and even vanishing glaciers can affect Earth's rotation.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for items about events celebrating Constitution Day on Sept. 17.

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



1. Condition of having liberty; ability to act (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. To elect, decide, allow or defeat to make legal (4-letter verb)

□ □ □ □

3. To make known in a clear or formal way (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. System of control; form of political rule (10-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. These citizens have the _____ to vote as they want.
2. In the classroom, students raise their hands to _____.
3. Judge Miller will _____ the winner in the race.
4. In England, the _____ is a constitutional monarchy.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Freedom, Vote, Declare, Government.

©2022 Cassius One LLC --- www.myvocabulary.com

Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$6.00 shipping and handling per order.

