



News You Can Use



photo courtesy Ted Mielczarek

In the United States, we celebrate Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, along with Citizenship Day on Sept. 17.

In 1787, 12 states voted in favor of the proposed U.S. Constitution. This document, which took effect in 1789, is a set of basic laws that organizes our government. Later, the Bill of Rights added more ideas.

Over the past year, we've heard a lot about "fake news." This week, The Mini Page looks at the First Amendment and why news coverage about government is so important to citizens.

Why a free press?

Our country's Founding Fathers included freedom of the press in the Bill of Rights with citizens in mind. They wanted journalists to be parallel, or even with, members of the government. This way, news reporters can keep an eye on what government is doing and report it to the people.

In the early 1900s, "watchdog journalism"* became more common. Magazines and newspapers looked at problems with city governments and with industries such as railroads and food processing.

How do we get the news?

Over the years, newspapers, radio, television, the internet and other media have become important tools for people to find out what our government is up to.

*Journalism is gathering and producing news and other reports for media.

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Mini Fact:

The Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791.

Today, we have many ways to follow the news. Some families get a newspaper delivered to their home every day or every week. Others may read local and national news on the internet.

What is trust?

It's important for consumers, or users, of the news to decide whom they trust. What does trust mean? If you trust someone, it means you are confident that you can count on that person to be fair and honest. You can also trust a company or an organization.

If you trust a news person or station, you believe that they are telling you the truth.

Experts suggest that just as eating a variety of foods is important, kids and adults should look at different media for news about government and then form their ideas about what the government is doing.

Look for variety

Consumers should not just read or watch the news. They should think about how it's presented. Examining the news today will help you become a better news consumer as you get older.



Reporters from International News Network interview a U.S. Army soldier at Fort Irwin, California.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tiffany Dutenkort

Our First Amendment

The U.S. Constitution was amended, or changed, with the Bill of Rights. These first 10 amendments added some important ideas to the laws of the country.

The First Amendment reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

What does it mean?

- **Freedom of religion:** Congress cannot pass a law setting up a religion that everyone must follow. You are free to worship as you please.
- **Freedom of speech:** You are free to speak out and give your side of things. Others are free to listen. However, there are some limits. You can't shout "fire" in a crowded room when there is no fire.
- **Freedom of the press:** Members of the press do not have to get what they are planning to print or say approved by the government beforehand. They are free to print what they wish as long as it is not a deliberate lie.
- **Freedom of assembly:** You are free to meet peacefully.
- **Freedom of petition:** You are free to ask the government to correct things that you think are wrong.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPBillofRights
- bit.ly/MPConstitution

At the library:

- "Our Constitution Rocks!" by Juliette Turner
- "The Bill of Rights: Protecting Our Freedom Then and Now" by Syl Sobel

Try 'n' Find

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



AMENDMENT,	A H I L E L L A R A P K H R R
BILL, CITIZENSHIP,	I O F R E E D O M X T X O I E
CONSTITUTION,	D P N O I S I V E L E T N A P
CONSUMER, DOCUMENT,	E R E F R I G H T S S Q E F A
FAIR, FAKE, FREEDOM,	M E K B J O U R N A L I S M P
HONEST, JOURNALISM,	C S A L C O N S U M E R T T S
MEDIA, NEWSPAPER,	W S F U D O C U M E N T C S W
PARALLEL, PRESS,	F N O I T U T I T S N O C U E
RIGHTS, TELEVISION,	C I T I Z E N S H I P J O R N
TRUST.	L L I B T N E M D N E M A T W

Cook's Corner

Peachy Keen Dessert

You'll need:

- 2 peaches
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1/4 cup light sour cream

- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts or pecans
- honey to drizzle



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

What to do:

1. Cut up peaches into bite-size pieces (with or without skin).
2. Sprinkle brown sugar on top of peaches.
3. Stir in sour cream.
4. Add nuts on top and drizzle with small amount of honey. Serve immediately. Serves 2.

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. fruit found in muffins (9) _____	RY	BER	CHOW	LE
2. thick soup with clams (7) _____	IN	BLI	OUR	VALU
3. what a knight wears (5) _____	OR	AB	ARM	VE
4. what bread is made from (5) _____	ND	BLUE	FL	DER

Answers: blueberry, chowder, armor, armor, flour, vein, valuable, blind.

Mini Jokes



Bill: What's the opposite of a buffalo?

Bailey: A buffa-high!

Benny: What event do buffaloes recognize every 200 years?

Beatrice: The bisontennial!

Eco Note



University of British Columbia marine biologist Daniel Pauly says that fish species are moving away from the equator at a rate of about 30 miles per decade as they try to remain in an environment ideal for feeding and spawning. Tropical waters are becoming too warm with climate change.

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For later:

Talk with your family or classmates about the choices you make for keeping up with the news. Then pay attention to other media outlets for a week and discuss again.

Teachers:

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



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