



Constitution Day Is September 17!

This packet contains information and resources for our school sites as we prepare to celebrate **Constitution Day**.

Key Ideas:

- Federal law requires all schools to provide an educational program on the Constitution on Constitution Day, September 17.
- The Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787.

Support:

Trainings:

Teachers, grade level team leaders, and administrators may attend one of three sessions of a Constitution Day Workshop. Contact David Byrd in Curriculum and Professional Learning to register. (All teachers will receive 1.5 hours of A-H Professional Development for attending one of these workshops.)

- September 5 4:00-5:30 Tech Services Computer Lab
- September 6 4:00-5:30 Tech Services Computer Lab
- September 7 4:00-5:30 Tech Services Computer Lab

Resources:

This packet contains numerous resources, internet and other formats that teachers may use.

Questions? Please contact David Byrd in Curriculum and Professional Learning at dbyrd@equsd.net or 686-7797 ext. 7363 to register.

1. [www.Constitutionday.com](http://www.constitutionday.com) Resources

America is Invited! Join General Colin Powell as he leads the nation in The Preamble

General Colin Powell will lead the Country in a coordinated, nationwide recitation of the Preamble to the United States Constitution. The actual ceremony will be held on Monday, September 18, 2006, at 11:00pm. You may participate by viewing the live ceremony from this website (<http://www.constitutionday.com/>) or you may download General Powell's recitation on video for use in your school, home or workplace.

Following the recitation of the Preamble, there will be a roll call of the Fifty United States in the order that the state ratified the Constitution or was admitted to the Union. The celebration concludes with "Bells Across America" led from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in honor of the First Amendment – the Freedom of Speech and Religion.

2. Teacher Created Materials Resources

Teacher Created Materials has a variety of Constitution Day materials covering grades K-12. Please visit their website www.tcmpub.com and click on the Constitution Day tab next to the American Flag located in the middle of the Home Page.

3. The Bill of Rights Institute Resources

Constitution Cube Activities

Our Constitution Cube activity has multiple uses for every type of learner. Download the cube from our Constitution Day Lesson for High School (in pdf format) by clicking the links at the website and get rolling!

Founded in 1999, The Bill of Rights Institute is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop programs and curriculum that teach students about the founding of our nation and what it means to be an American citizen. The Bill of Rights Institute is dedicated to creating educational materials for teachers like you, in order to help young Americans appreciate constitutional principles that define us as a nation. A variety of secondary lesson plans produced by the Bill of Rights Institute can be found at: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Instructional/Resources/ConstitutionDay/index.htm>

4. Close Up Publishing Resources.

Close Up Publishing has four simple activities that can be done in one class period or several, or can be mixed and matched according to the individual school's Constitution Day program. These activities can be found at:

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday/download/attachments/1480/Const.Day+Lesson+Plan.pdf?version=1>

The text and activity ideas are adapted from the book *The Bill Of Rights: A User's Guide*, 4th edition, and the corresponding Teacher's Guide. Copyright 2004. All rights reserved. These lessons correspond to the book's first chapter, "The Birth of the Bill of Rights," and in particular, the section called "The Idea of Rights."

After completing these activities, students will be able to:

- define the concept of "rights" and differentiate between natural and legal rights
- describe how rights in the United States are protected by the United States Constitution, in particular by the first ten amendments
- list the rights granted to U.S. citizens by the Bill of Rights
- analyze and prioritize different rights and the consequences of granting or denying those rights

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5. Center for Civic Education Resources

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The Center for Civic Education, in collaboration with the American Association of School Administrators, prepared these lessons in response to legislation passed by the U.S. Congress requiring educational institutions receiving federal funding to present a program pertaining to the U. S. Constitution.

For additional information about Constitution Day and Citizenship Day click here: <http://www.civiced.org/byrd/>

Kindergarten - Introduction to the term authority.

Grades 1-2 - Introduction to the terms authority, limited government, and law.

Grades 3-4 - Introduction to the Preamble's ideas and importance.

Grades 5-6 - Explore terms in the Preamble.

Grades 7-8 - The federal system and the role of federal vs. state governments.

Grades 9-10 - Introduction to the first Congress & establishing the executive and judicial branches

Grades 11-12 - Major conflicts and the Bill of Rights.

The Center for Civic Education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation in civic life by citizens committed to the values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy. The Center offers a wide range of curricular materials, teacher trainings, community-based programs, and other free resources including the National Standards for Civics & Government. For more information about these lessons contact the Center at 818.591.9321 or cce@civiced.org.

6. Education World, the Educator's Best Friend

Education World has gathered resources that should help you figure out just how you might recognize the Constitution Day. Below you will find a link to dozens of lesson ideas and other resources that should provide the tools you will need to recognize Constitution Day this year and in years to come.

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson347.shtml

7. The National Archives Resources

Washington, DC... This September, the National Archives continues its popular tradition of celebrating Constitution Day. The National Archives has the original Constitution on permanent display in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. For the first time, National Archives programs in honor of Constitution Day, September 17, will extend far beyond one day and far beyond the Rotunda to reach thousands of citizens, teachers, and students nationwide. All events are free of charge except when noted.

Checks and Balances in the Age of Instant Messaging: A Congressional Perspective

Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 P.M., National Archives William G. McGowan Theater

This program will be available as a webcast beginning Friday, September 16. Go to:

<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html>

Presidential historian Michael Beschloss will moderate this discussion with members of Congress on the impact of high-speed communications, instantaneous news, and public expectations of quick results on basic constitutional principles such as "separation of powers" and "federalism." House Majority Whip Roy Blunt and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer have already agreed to participate in the program. Senator Robert Byrd, author of the legislation establishing Constitution Day education programs, will offer a special kick-off for the program. The discussion will address if and how the Founding Fathers' blueprint for deliberative democracy should be adapted to a world reshaped by communications technology. This will be the inaugural William G.

McGowan Communications Forum, an annual event at the National Archives exploring the intersection of technology, communications and government. This program is free and open to the public. Reservations can be made by e-mail (reservations.nwe@nara.gov) or telephone (202-501-5000).

Constitutional Conversations with Supreme Court Justices

To be broadcast Friday, September 16 at noon in the National Archives William G. McGowan Theater

Will be broadcast via satellite and webcast on Friday, September 16 at noon and at 3 P.M. Go to:
<http://www.justicelearning.org/constitutionday/index.asp>

U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Stephen Breyer will discuss the Constitution with high school students at the Supreme Court. This program will be filmed this summer and edited into a classroom ready 45-minute program. The Justices will take questions from the students and discuss a broad range of Constitutional issues with a particular emphasis on: the need for a constitution; federalism; implicit and explicit rights; and separation of powers.

8. The Annenberg Classroom Resources

Constitution Day 2006 Made Easy!

To help schools comply with the federal requirement to offer an educational program on Constitution Day, the Annenberg Classroom, in cooperation with a prestigious group of educators and media organizations will offer a variety of educational resources for use in high schools, colleges and universities and by federal agencies on Constitution Day. Please register here.

<http://www.justicelearning.org/ConstitutionDay/index.asp>

What programs will be available? Videos on DVD: Two videos featuring Supreme Court Justices and selected Justice Talking radio programs will be available for classroom use and rebroadcast within your schools or federal agencies. They include:

Judicial Independence: A Hallmark of Liberty

Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Anthony Kennedy, join former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and high school students from California and Pennsylvania to discuss why we need an independent judiciary. Taped in May, 2006, the Justices take questions from the students and discuss the ways that the Constitution safeguards the role of judges so that they in turn can safeguard the rights of minorities and those with unpopular views.

Our Constitution: A Conversation with Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Stephen Breyer

Taped on June 5, 2005, this classroom-ready video features the Justices taking questions from Philadelphia area high school students. The Justices discuss why we have and need a Constitution; explain what federalism is, how implicit and explicit rights are defined, and how separation of powers ensures that no one branch of government obtains too much power.

Justice Talking Radio Programs:

Justice Talking, an award-winning radio program from Penn's Annenberg Public Policy Center and NPR has selected two of its programs for use on Constitution Day. These programs, hosted by NPR's Margot Adler, will be available on CD; on-line at www.justicetalking.org or can be downloaded for use on an MP3 player.

Register Today for Free Constitution Day Materials

If you would like a free copy of one or all of these programs mailed to you for use on Constitution Day, please register on line before September 8, 2006. Make sure you specify the shows you want, and provide us with a mailing address. Copies will be mailed in late August and early September.