

Hooray!

Law of the Land

Our country has rules.

Read the story to learn about our **Constitution**. That is a written plan that tells the **laws** of our country. A law is a rule. The plan was written more than 200 years ago.

1 Long ago, our country had many different rules. People wanted to have one set of rules. At the time, the United States was a new country. It was made up of only 13 states.



Ariel Skelley/Photolibrary

2 A group of leaders talked about the rules. They planned to write one set of rules. They wanted to make the country better. George Washington was one of those leaders.



Bettman/Corbis

3 The leaders met in Independence Hall. That is a building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They wrote the rules by hand. The rules start with the words "We the People."



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4 The leaders signed the new set of rules for people to follow. The rules became known as the United States Constitution.



Masterfile

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. What is the Constitution?

2. Describe what happened after people decided that they wanted one set of rules?

3. According to the article, what was the last step before the list of rules became the U.S. Constitution?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

In 1787, leaders from the 13 colonies came together and wrote the United States Constitution in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Who? leaders from the 13 colonies

5. (did) What?

6. When?

7. Where?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A group of leaders planned to write one set of rules, _____ the country would be better.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **constitution** (con · sti · tu · tion): a written plan of laws or rules; your health.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **constitution**.
- a. On the first day of second grade, the teacher and students created a class constitution made up of a set of classroom rules.
 - b. In order to be fair and equal, everyone is expected to follow the constitution created by our country.
 - c. When someone doesn't follow the U.S. Constitution, they can get into trouble.
 - d. The Constitution contains rules that are meant to protect people and give them freedoms.
 - e. Even when everyone else is sick, Susan always stays healthy so we would say she has a strong constitution!
10. Which picture is of the U.S. Constitution?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 400

Featured Text Structure: Sequence - the writer provides an order of events or steps in a process

Passage Summary: The passage describes what the United States' Constitution is and the process to create it.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give each student a copy of the passage so they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. What is the Constitution? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: The Constitution of the United States is a written plan that tells the laws of our country. [paragraph 1]

2. Describe what happened after people decided that they wanted one set of rules? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: A group of leaders talked about the rules and how they wanted to make the country better by creating one set of rules. The leaders all met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA and started writing the rules by hand. [paragraphs 3, 4]

3. According to the article, what was the last step before the list of rules became the U.S. Constitution? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: In order for the rules to become the U.S. Constitution, the leaders signed the new set of rules for the people to follow. Once all the leaders signed the rules, they became known as the Constitution. [paragraph 5]

4. What is this passage mostly about? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The article is about the Constitution of the United States. The article describes the steps that led to the creation of the Constitution. The Constitution is a set of laws for our country that was created by our country's leaders in 1787 in Independence Hall.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

In 1787, leaders from the 13 colonies came together and wrote the United States Constitution in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Who? leaders from the 13 colonies

5. (did) What? **came together and wrote the United States Constitution**

6. When? **in 1787**

7. Where? **in Independence Hall in Philadelphia**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A group of leaders planned to write one set of rules, _____ the country would be better.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **constitution** (con · sti · tu · tion): a written plan of laws or rules; your health.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (con · sti · tu · tion)

- b. Teacher says: "This word is constitution. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Constitution."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "A constitution is a written plan of laws or rules. It can also mean your health."
- b. Teacher says: "In the passage, the word constitution is used when talking about a written plan of rules or laws. The author discusses how the Constitution of the United States was written. You can also say someone has a strong constitution or they are really healthy."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Constitution."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **constitution** (con · sti · tu · tion): a written plan of laws or rules; your health.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **constitution**.
- a. On the first day of second grade, the teacher and students created a class constitution made up of a set of classroom rules.
- b. In order to be fair and equal, everyone is expected to follow the constitution created by our country.
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- d. The Constitution contains rules that are meant to protect people and give them freedoms.
- e. Even when everyone else is sick, Susan always stays healthy so we would say she has a strong constitution!

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Which picture is of the U.S. Constitution?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: law, independence, rules