

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Please get your Worksheet and Social Studies Book

**Read from your Social Studies Book
Pages 258-259**

Answer the question on the worksheet

***** Please only email me the pages that are on Weebly
This Week**

- **Friday's Spelling Test**
- **Social Studies Workbook p. 60**
- **Social Studies Workbook p. 62**

Lesson

2

The U.S. Constitution



What to Know

Why is a constitution important?

- ✓ The Constitution of the United States describes how our national government works.
- ✓ The Bill of Rights describes rights and freedoms.

Vocabulary

rights p. 260

amendment p. 261

Bill of Rights p. 261

representative p. 262

majority rule p. 263

minority rights p. 263

The government of the United States of America is our national, or federal, government. It is located in Washington, D.C., our nation's capital. The national government is made up of three branches. The Constitution of the United States describes each branch. A constitution is a set of laws for a government.

► This painting shows the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787.



A New Government

1 Americans fought the Revolutionary War because they felt that the laws Britain made for them were unfair. For their new nation, they wanted a government that would make fair laws. The leaders of the states got together and wrote a plan of government. This plan is called the Constitution of the United States.

The states approved the Constitution in 1789. When Americans voted to elect their first President, they chose General George Washington. Washington became President on April 30, 1789, in New York City, which was the capital at that time.

Reading Check

Main Idea and Details

Why did Americans fight the Revolutionary War?

They thought the laws Britain made for them were unfair.

► The Constitution of the United States



England's laws were unfair.



Americans fought the Revolutionary War with England.



Americans formed a new nation.



Americans wrote fair laws in the Constitution.

Social Studies Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Read from your Social Studies Book

- Pages 258-259 and answer the questions

1. A constitution is a set of _____ for a government.
2. Americans fought the _____ War because they felt that the laws _____ made for them were _____.
3. Where is the federal or national government located?

4. When did the states approve the Constitution?

5. Who was the first President of the United States?

6. When did the first President become President of the United States?

7. True/False, New York City was the capital of the United States at the time of the first President?

1. laws
2. Revolutionary
Britain
unfair
3. Washington D.C
4. 1789
5. General George Washington
6. April 30, 1789
7. True

March 26, 2020

What you will need

1. Social Studies Book
2. Worksheet

The Bill of Rights



2 Finally, the new government had a Constitution, but something was missing. George Mason, from Virginia, was one person who felt strongly about what was *not* in the Constitution. “There is no declaration of rights,”* he wrote. Nowhere in the Constitution was there a list of the people’s **rights**, or freedoms.

3

After the Constitution was written, the states of the new country had to agree to it. Some states said they would not agree unless the rights of the people were clearly stated in the Constitution.

*George Mason. *George Mason and the Bill of Rights*. Gary Williams, ed. The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty. 1992.

5 ➤ The Bill of Rights

4 ➤ The Bill of Rights guarantees that citizens have the freedom to speak out against government decisions.





6 George Mason had written the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which listed the rights of people living in that state. James Madison used that as a guide for writing ten **amendments**, or changes, to the Constitution. These ten amendments are called the **Bill of Rights**. This Bill of Rights lists freedoms and rights that the people of the United States will always have. Two of the freedoms listed are freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This means that people can say what they wish and worship in any way they choose.

Since the Bill of Rights was added, other amendments have been made to the Constitution. The Constitution is a document that can be changed when needed, but this does not happen very often.

Reading Check

Summarize

Why was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?

to make sure that the government would protect people's freedoms and rights

4 The Bill of Rights guarantees that citizens have the freedom to speak out against government decisions.



260 • Unit 4

What right is shown in the photo?

Freedom of Speech

Social Studies Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Read from your Social Studies Book
Pages 260-261 and answer the questions

1. rights, or _____.

2. amendments, or _____.

3. The ten amendments to the Constitution are called _____ of _____.

4. What did George Mason and others think was missing from the original Constitution?

5. What right is shown in the photo on page 260?

6. Name three of the rights in the Bill of Rights.

Freedom of _____

Freedom of _____

Freedom of _____

1. Freedom
2. Changes
3. Bill of Rights
4. A listing of the people's rights
5. Freedom of Speech
6. Freedom of religion
 - Freedom of speech
 - Freedom of the press

Group Time

Why is it important for
us to have freedom of
speech today?

March 30, 2020

What you will need

1. Social Studies Book p. 262,
263

2. Worksheet



► This California worker is checking votes for accuracy.

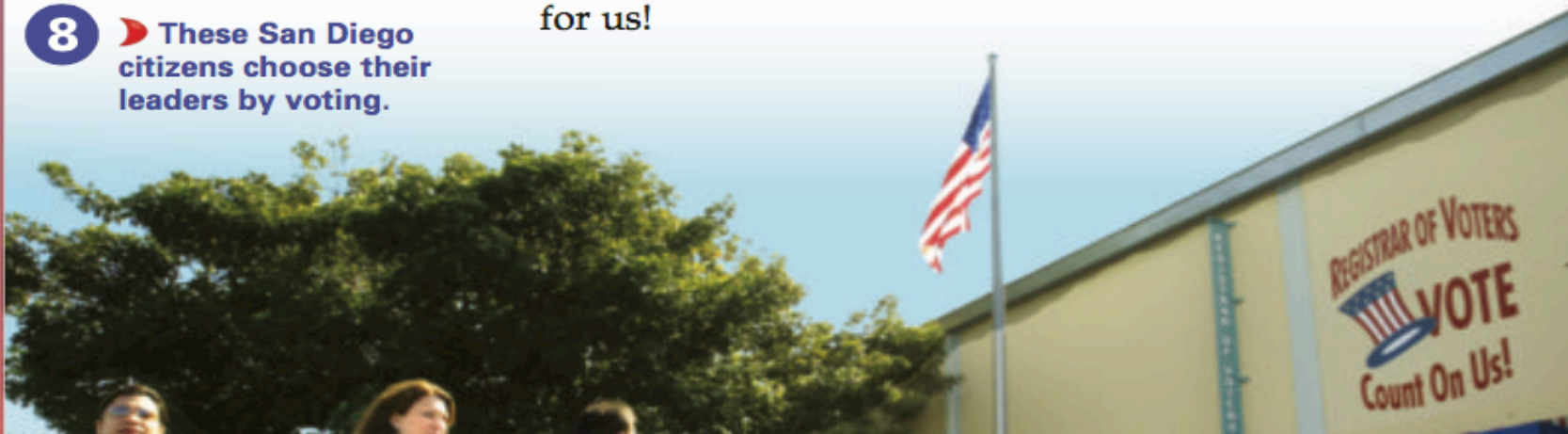
A Plan of Government

Our Constitution is a plan for running the national government of the United States. It is a short document because it gives only the basic rules. All the other laws in our country are based on the Constitution.

- 7 The writers of the Constitution decided to create a government with three parts, or branches. The writers added another important idea to the Constitution. They made sure each branch would keep an eye on the other two branches. So, no one part of the government has all the power.

The people of our country are the power behind the Constitution. The people elect representatives. A **representative** is a person chosen by a group of people to act or speak for them. In the United States, we do not work for our leaders. They work for us!

- 8 ► These San Diego citizens choose their leaders by voting.



The Constitution works by **majority rule**. This means that if more than half the people vote for the same thing or person, they get what they want. However, the Constitution also states the importance of minority rights.

Minority rights means that the smaller group, the one that did not vote for the same thing or person that the larger group voted for, still gets to keep its rights.

Reading Check

★ Main Idea and Details

Why do the branches of the government keep an eye on each other? to make sure that no one branch of government has all the power

Summary

The U.S. Constitution sets out the basic rules of our government. The Bill of Rights tells what rights the people have.



› Citizens have the right to vote in private.

Social Studies Thursday, March 26, 2020

Read from your Social Studies Book
Pages 262-263 and answer the questions

1. _____ is a person chosen by a group of people to act or speak for them.
2. _____ more than half the people vote for the same thing or person, they get what they want.
3. _____ the smaller group, the one that did not vote for the same thing or person that the larger group voted for, still gets to keep its rights.

4. Why is it a good idea to have three branches of government?

5. Why is it important for people to vote?

1. Representative
2. majority rule
3. Minority rights
4. Each of the three branches can keep the other branches from becoming too powerful.
5. When you vote, you help decide who will represent you in government.

Chapter 7 Lesson 2

Vocabulary Review

a. rights

d. representative

b. amendment

e. majority rule

c. Bill of Rights

f. minority rights

1. _____ the smaller group, the one that did not vote for the same thing or person that the larger group voted for
2. _____ freedoms
3. _____ a person chosen by a group of people to act or speak for them.
4. _____ changes
5. _____ ten amendments
6. _____ more than half the people vote for the same thing or person, they get what they want.