LESSON PLAN
THE CONSTITUTION- Preamble

OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the history of the creation of the Constitution, including the Articles of Confederation
2. Describe the purpose of the Constitution as set forth in the Preamble.
3. Explain how the Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
4. Discuss how the idea of self-government is reflected in the first three words of the Preamble.
5. Create a poster illustrating real world examples of how the goals of the Preamble are still enforced today.

WARM-UP
On a separate sheet of paper, students should answer the following question in complete sentences. What is the purpose of government? What document outlines the rules for what the United States government is allowed to do and what it is not allowed to do?

(Feel free to change this question. My other idea was to have the students watch the video you are creating and answer a question about that.)

Discuss the warm-up question with the class. See what answers they come up with.

Lead the conversation in the direction of the Constitution being the supreme law of the land and the purpose of the Constitution being outlined in the Preamble.

INSTRUCTION

1. Watch the Joe Foss Institute Video

Post the Preamble so the entire class can read it clearly. Explain to the students the purpose of the Preamble. Tell students that it introduces the Constitution and the goals of the document.

Draw the students’ attention to the first three words of the Preamble, “We the People.” Ask them who is responsible for the government based on this statement. Emphasize the idea of self-government based on this statement.

2. As a class, read the Preamble and together identify the six goals of the Constitution.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

1. form a more perfect union
2. establish justice
3. ensure domestic tranquility
4. provide for the common defense
5. promote the general welfare
6. secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity

2. Now ask students what each of these goals means. They may have some good guesses but the vocabulary may confuse them.

ACTIVITY ONE
At this point have students complete the KIM (Keyword, Information, Memory Clue) worksheet using dictionaries, the internet, or other classroom resources.

1. Define the following words using the KIM graphic organizer:
   - union
   - justice
   - domestic
   - tranquility
   - defense
   - welfare
   - liberty
   - posterity
   - ordain

2. Break students into groups of two or three. Using newly defined words have the students rewrite the Preamble in their own words. Bring students back together as a class and have them write one final translation together.

May read something like this:

We the people of the United States, in order to join and work together, establish fairness, ensure peace in our country, provide for the protection of all, promote the general health and happiness of citizens, and secure freedom to ourselves and future generations, do prescribe (order) this Constitution of the United States.

ACTIVITY TWO
Now that students understand the six goals of the Constitution ask them to brainstorm ideas of how each goal is met.

NOTE: the sub-points need to be all verbs or all nouns, not mixed

1. form a more perfect union
   - strong central government while still allowing states to have power over their own region.
2. establish justice
   - court system
3. ensure domestic tranquility
   - Police and fire departments to help protect communities

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http://www.joefossinstitute.org/
4. provide for the common defense
   • Military
5. promote the general welfare
   • Public schools, free lunch, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, police force, public transportation
6. secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity
   • Bill of rights

Break students into six groups. Assign each group one goal listed above. Ask students to find real life examples of how these goals impact citizens today. Resources should include: newspaper articles, internet articles, magazine clippings, as well as any other classroom resources. This could possible be a homework assignment where they have to find an article and bring it to class.
   Example: group six needs to find an example of how Americans are free. They could bring in a court case, and an article about the Bill of Rights, an essay about freedom, or pictures of people protesting. Any of these would be acceptable. They would then add their artifact to the poster and describe its importance.

Once examples are found, students should create a group poster illustrating how their preamble goal is still upheld today. If you do not have technology this is best done with butcher paper, tape, glue, markers, and pictures either drawn or cut out by students.

CLOSING
Have students answer the following questions.
What is the supreme law of the land? Why?
What are the first three words of the Preamble and how is the idea of self-government reflected in these words?
Why is the Preamble an important part of the Constitution? Cite examples using the actual text from the Preamble.
This will allow you to check for understanding as a formative assessment.

Possible Technology Integration

ACTIVITY ONE - Create a Class Wikispace
1 - Explain the history of the creation of the Constitution, including the Articles of Confederation
2 - Describe the purpose of the Constitution as set forth in the Preamble
3. Rewrite the Preamble in age appropriate terms so all students will understand its importance

The teacher should follow the lesson plan up until the point where the students write their own translations of the Preamble with their groups. Once students have finished, they should go to a Wikispace page created by the teacher (http://www.wikispaces.com/).
The teacher will need to set up the Wikispace prior to students using it. The teacher should add one page for every group. Groups will log in to their pages and type in their translations of the Preamble. They can then add images they find online to help illustrate their translations. Once groups are done, they can present their translation to their classmates using their Wikispace page. Tutorials on Wikispace (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJjT--hbbhE) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQXW-aiZQEW)

**ACTIVITY TWO - Create a podcast**

1. Explain the history of the creation of the Constitution, including the Articles of Confederation.
2. Describe the purpose of the Constitution as set forth in the Preamble.
3. Rephrase the Preamble in age appropriate terms so all students will understand its importance.

The teacher should follow the lesson plan up until the point where the students write their own translations of the Preamble with their groups. Once students have finished they can go to (http://podbean.com/) to record a podcast of their translation. Each group member should record at least one line of the translation. Students should also provide a description of why they think the Preamble is important based on its contents (using examples for the Preamble). Example: I think the Preamble is important because it ensures our country will be protected by a military. Once students have recorded their translations and explained why the document is important, they can present their recording to the class or to their teacher.

PodBean Tutorial: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmy-U8b_--cQ) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjQEiKxLU4E)

**ACTIVITY THREE - Create a Glogster Poster**

**Objectives**

1. Explain the history of the creation of the Constitution, including the Articles of Confederation.
2. Describe the purpose of the Constitution as set forth in the Preamble.
3. Create a poster illustrating real world examples of how the goals of the Preamble are still enforced today.

Follow the lesson above as written. Once you begin activity two, instead of having students create a poster using butcher paper and markers, have the groups create a Glogster poster (http://www.glogster.com/). (http://edu.glogster.com/) Glogster.edu costs money after free trial. Examples of how the Preamble impacts our lives today will need to be electronic or students can type summaries. Students can add youtube videos as well as images to their glogster.

What’s the Point of the Preamble?

The Preamble of the Constitution was added to give readers an overview of the goals of the document. It outlines what the framers hoped to achieve with their new government. Read through the Preamble and identify the six goals of the Constitution.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Identify the six goals of the Constitution established in the Constitution.

1. __________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________________________
5. __________________________________________________________________________
6. __________________________________________________________________________
KIM Graphic Organizer

Complete the graphic organizer by filling in the definitions for each word and drawing a memory clue to help you remember what the word means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Memory Clue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tranquility</td>
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<td>Defence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
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<td>Liberty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posterity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordain</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preamble in Your Words
Using the definitions from the KIM graphic organizer, rewrite the Preamble in your own words.

Partner Preamble

Class Preamble
Create something like this brainstorm bubble that says “Examples- Goals of the Constitution” in the center. Write the six goals in the circles and the students ideas in the rectangles.