

Benjamin Franklin and the U.S. Constitution Lesson

Answer Key

Benjamin Franklin

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Reading text only

Benjamin Franklin is famous in American history.
He had many ideas for the country.
He started the first free public library.
He was the first Postmaster General.
He was a diplomat to France.
He was the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention.
He signed the U.S. Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution

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The Constitution is an important document.
After the War of Independence, the country needed new rules.
The Founding Fathers met at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
They wrote the Constitution at the Convention.
The Constitution was written in 1787.
Nine states had to pass the Constitution.
Some Americans did not agree with the Constitution.
The Federalist Papers pushed the states to pass the Constitution.
In 1790, all 13 states passed the Constitution.
We follow the same Constitution today.

The Federalist Papers

Three men wrote the Federalist Papers:

- James Madison
- Alexander Hamilton
- John Jay

NEW WORDS

document = **important paper**
Founding Fathers = **leaders in Colonial times**
convention = **big meeting**
to pass = **to vote yes**

We The People

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Reading text only

The first three words of the Constitution are WE THE PEOPLE.
“We The People” means Americans have self-government.

U.S. citizens elect their representatives to the government.

The U.S. government makes the country’s laws.

Every person’s rights and freedoms are protected by law.

For example, freedom of speech is one important right for everyone in America.

Rule of Law

- Everyone must follow the law.
- No person is above the law.
- This is called “rule of law.”

The U.S. Constitution—Correct the Sentence

Read the sentence. Correct the sentence.

Benjamin Franklin was the youngest member of the Constitutional Convention.

Benjamin Franklin was the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention.

The Constitution was written in 1776.

The Constitution was written in 1787.

The first three words of the Constitution are “Give Me Liberty”.

The first three words of the Constitution are WE THE PEOPLE.

The Constitution Today

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What does the Constitution do?

- Protects basic rights of Americans
- Defines the government

The Constitution protects our basic rights.
The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
All other laws must follow the Constitution.

The Constitution also defines our government.
There are three branches of government:
Legislative, Executive, Judicial

Executive = **President**

Legislative = **Congress**

Judicial = **Court**

The branches have separate powers.
The branches have equal power.
This is called “separation of powers.”
The powers balance each other.
No branch has more power than the others.

Categories—Benjamin Franklin and the Constitution

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Look at the words in the word bank.
Copy the words in the category.

Benjamin Franklin
1st Postmaster General
U.S. diplomat
1st free library

Branches of Government

judicial

executive

legislative

U.S. Constitution

protects rights

defines government

written in 1787

Federalist Papers

James Madison

John Jay

Alexander Hamilton

Constitution

Page 6

Copy the word.

Constitution

Constitution

Copy these sentences.

What is **the** **supreme law** of the **land**? The **Constitution**.