



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ★ EXHIBIT GUIDE ★

THE STORY OF *We the People*

This guide will help you **EXAMINE** the ways **THE CONSTITUTION AND AMERICAN CITIZENS**—just like you—have shaped our history and formed the American identity.

As you explore the exhibit, see the ways the **CONSTITUTION PLAYS A ROLE IN OUR DAILY LIVES.**

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



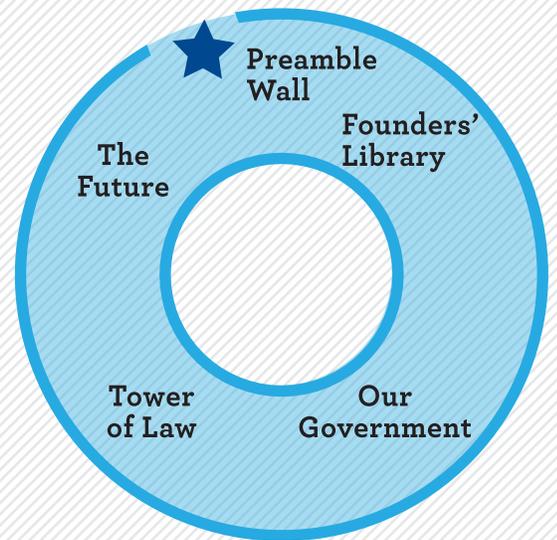
VISIT ★ LEARN ★ DEBATE

START HERE!

PREAMBLE WALL

The introduction to our Constitution is called the **PREAMBLE**. As a group, read the words out loud, then answer the questions below.

Who are the **AUTHORS OF THE CONSTITUTION**? Some people might say it's the Founding Fathers, but what does the Preamble say? Who is really writing it?



_____ e _____ e _____ e _____ e

Can you **GIVE TWO REASONS WHY THEY WROTE THE CONSTITUTION**?

HINT: They list some of those reasons in the Preamble! Try to find them, then put them in your own words.

1. _____

We the People
of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice, insure 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.

2. _____



DID YOU KNOW?

Before the Constitutional Convention, THOMAS JEFFERSON SENT JAMES MADISON A CARGO OF BOOKS FROM FRANCE. Madison used these works in his extensive research into ancient federations and republican governments, which helped shape his ideas for a federal constitution.

COLONISTS PUSH BACK

Even before declaring independence in 1776, AMERICAN COLONISTS PROTESTED in words and deeds. THEY SAW AS VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS AS BRITISH CITIZENS, especially disliked Parliament's efforts to impose new taxes after the Seven Years War (1754-1765) with war debt.

FOUNDERS' LIBRARY

The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution but where did the ideas come from in the first place? **CHECK OUT THE BOOKS AND IDEAS** that inspired the Founding Fathers.



BOOK TITLE

IDEA FROM BOOK USED

BOOK TITLE

IDEA FROM BOOK USED

BOOK TITLE

IDEA FROM BOOK USED

OUR GOVERNMENT: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

FIND THE MODELS OF THE BUILDINGS of our government houses, then complete this matching game. Draw a line connecting the right jobs to the right people, identifying who does what in the federal government.



BRANCH

WHO WORKS THERE

WHAT DO THEY DO

Legislative

President

Interpret the law

Executive

Supreme Court

Make, change and repeal laws

Judicial

Congress

Carry out the laws



BALANCE OF POWER

EXPLORE THE MODELS and label your own to take home! Use the word bank if you need help.

WORD BANK

Congress	Separation of Powers
House of Representatives	Executive
Senate	White House
	Supreme Court

What is the **NAME OF THE RULE** that makes sure no one branch of the government gets too much power and ensures they will work together to get things done?

HINT: Look in the word bank for the answer.

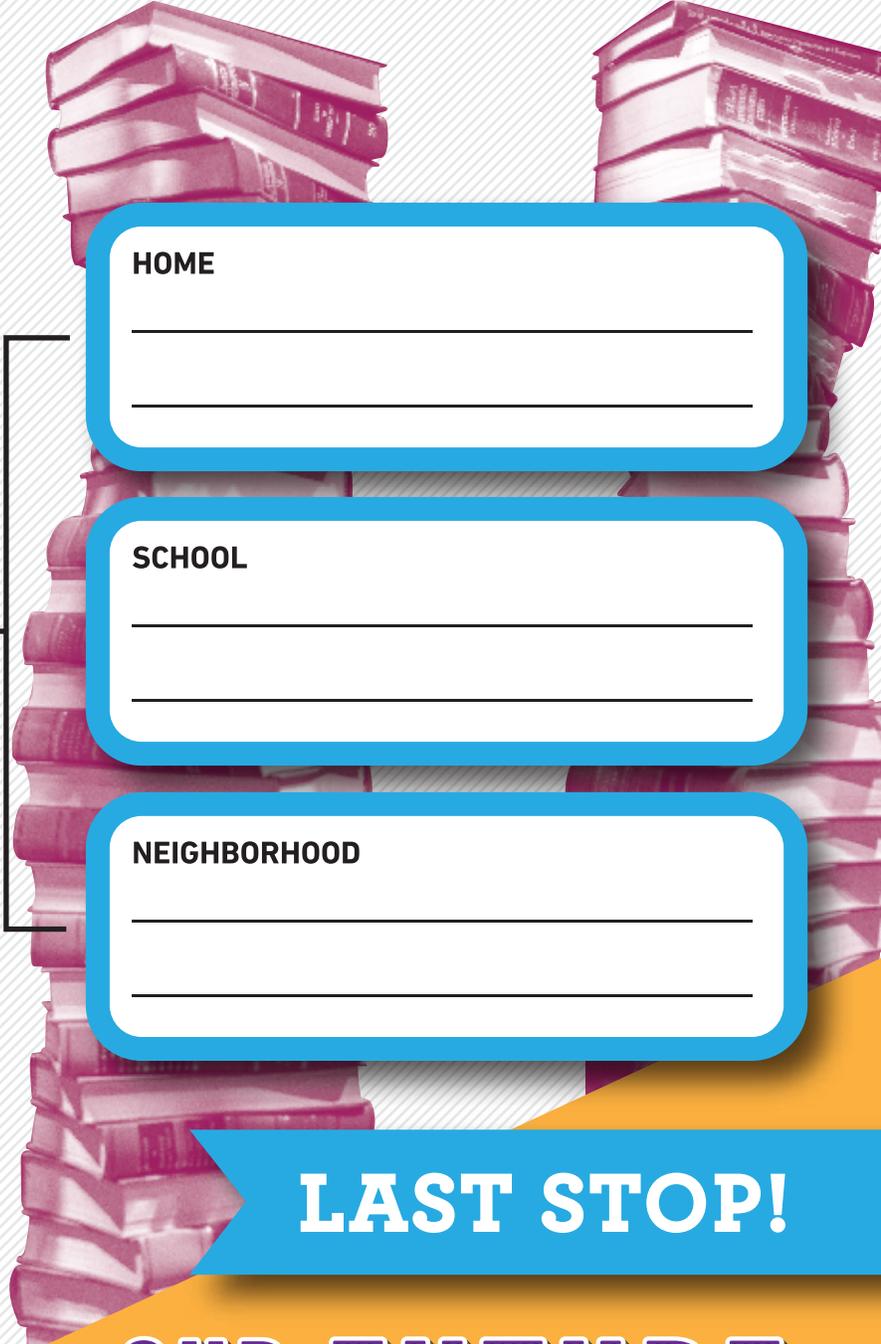


TOWER OF LAW

FIND THE GIANT STACK OF BOOKS.

This sculpture of books shows just some of the laws, or rules, we live under in America. **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE "LAWS" YOU LIVE BY** in your home, school, and neighborhood?

Sometimes We the People need a little help understanding the laws of the land, especially if we get in trouble. That's a lawyer's job. Read the blue panels and **FIND THE TWO AMENDMENTS** that say "have a lawyer if you need one."



HOME

SCHOOL

NEIGHBORHOOD

AMENDMENTS

&

LAST STOP!

OUR FUTURE

WHO AM I?

I'm the 45th President of the United States.

WHO AM I?

Find my picture, and then take a closer look at the exhibit panel, especially the last line. It says...**"OUR CONSTITUTION'S STORY IS WAITING TO BE WRITTEN."**

Take a minute and reflect on what you think will be next for our country. Write a short story about **HOW YOU ARE GOING TO JOIN IN AS A CITIZEN**. Share it with your friends or family on the ride home.

