



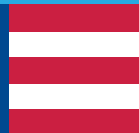
MIDDLE SCHOOL ★ EXHIBIT GUIDE ★

THE STORY OF *We the People*

This guide will help you **UNCOVER**
THE WAYS THE CONSTITUTION AND
AMERICAN CITIZENS—just like you—
HAVE SHAPED OUR HISTORY AND
FORMED THE AMERICAN IDENTITY.

Through your journey you will also
explore the ways the **CONSTITUTION**
CONTINUES TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE
IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



VISIT ★ LEARN ★ DEBATE

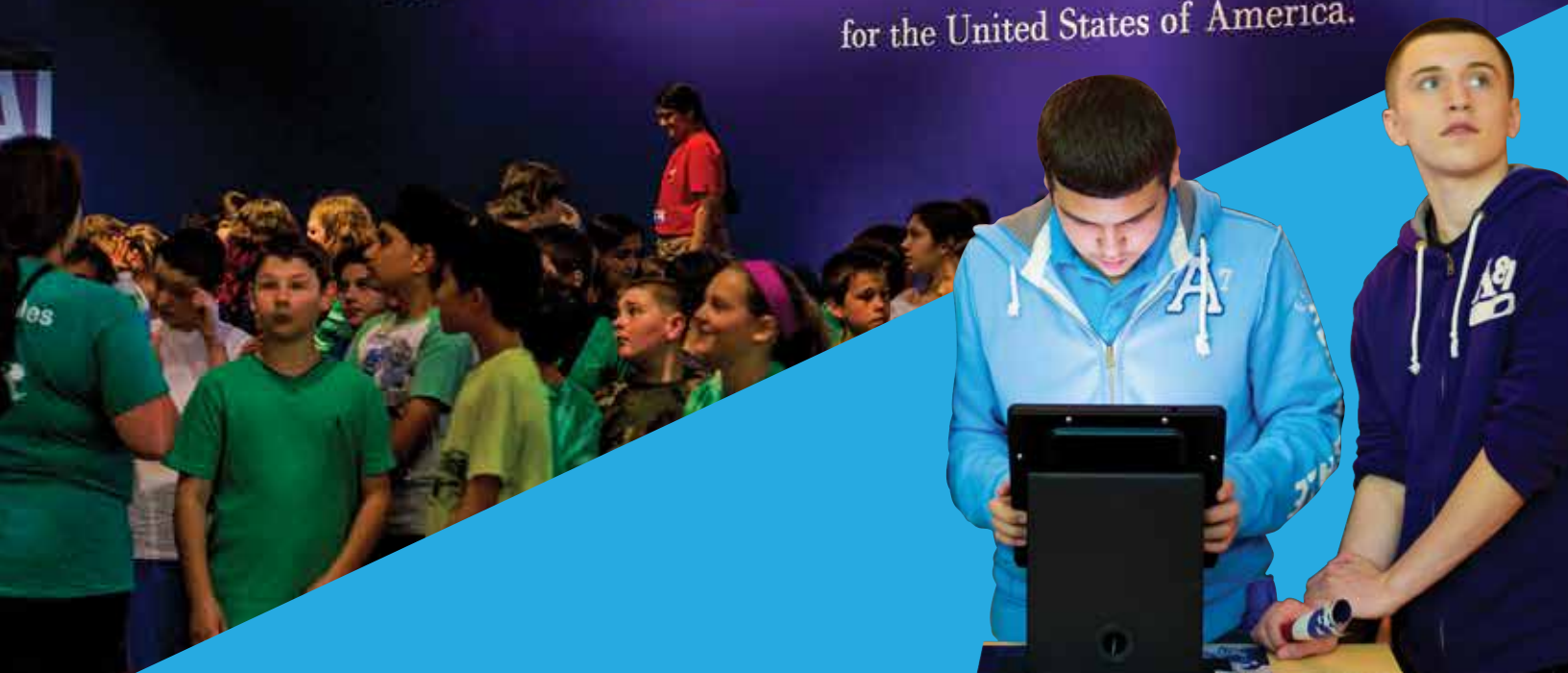
WELCOME TO THE RICHARD AND HELEN DEVOS EXHIBIT HALL

Throughout *The Story of We the People*, you will explore how individuals and events shaped the way our Constitution is understood today.

DIRECTIONS: As you make your way through the exhibit, **follow the outer path to locate examples throughout history, such as persons, groups, events, documents, and artifacts that relate to each phrase in the Constitution's Preamble**, using the graphic organizers to outline what you learned.

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.





“form a more perfect Union”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “form a more perfect Union.”
Form – *create, establish* • Perfect – *ideal, effective* • Union – *society, nation*

Rewrite “form a more perfect Union” in your own words:

To create an effective government

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? The Constitutional Convention

When did it happen? September 17, 1787

Who was involved? Framers of the Constitution

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? The Articles of Confederation did not create a strong union between the states, so the Framers created the Constitution.

“establish justice”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “establish justice.”
Establish – *provide, require* • Justice – *fairness, law*

Rewrite “establish justice” in your own words: _____

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? _____

When did it happen? _____

Who was involved? _____

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? _____





“insure domestic Tranquility”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “insure domestic Tranquility.”

Insure – *secure, provide* • Domestic – *private, internal* • Tranquility – *peace, quiet*

Rewrite “insure domestic Tranquility” in your own words: _____

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? _____

When did it happen? _____

Who was involved? _____

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? _____

“common defence”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “common defence.”

Common – *general, collective* • Defence – *protection, security*

Rewrite “common defence” in your own words: _____

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? _____

When did it happen? _____

Who was involved? _____

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? _____

FUN FACT:
There was no standard spelling in 1787 so the word “defence” was spelled with a “c” instead of an “s.”



“promote the general Welfare”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “promote the general Welfare.”
Promote – *ensure, protect* • Welfare – *well-being, interest*

Rewrite “promote the general Welfare” in your own words: _____

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? _____

When did it happen? _____

Who was involved? _____

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? _____

“secure the Blessings of Liberty”

HINT: These words have similar meanings to the words in the phrase “secure the Blessings of Liberty.”
Blessings – *gift, power* • Liberty – *freedom, right*

Rewrite “secure the Blessings of Liberty” in your own words: _____

Now, pick an historical example that fits your description.

What did you pick? _____

When did it happen? _____

Who was involved? _____

Why did it happen? How does it relate to the phrase? _____



Discover the Origins of Your Constitutional Rights!



Using a new, interactive tool you can see how an amendment we know as part of the Bill of Rights came to be — from James Madison’s original proposal through debates in Congress to the final version of the amendment that still protects Americans’ rights, today.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Locate the *Constitutional Rights: Origins and Travels* interactive touchscreen near the end of the exhibit.
2. Select “Writing Rights” on the left side of the screen.
3. Choose an amendment at the bottom of the screen.
4. Select “Madison’s Proposal.” (Some amendments have more than one from which to choose.)
5. Summarize Madison’s Proposal in the space below. Do the same for the “House Amendment” and “Senate Amendment.” Write the final amendment as it appears on the screen.

Madison’s Proposal:

House Amendment:

Senate Amendment:

Final Amendment:

**What was added to — or taken away — from Madison’s original proposal?
How did the amendment change as it made its way through Congress?**

Learn About RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD!



DIRECTIONS:

1. Locate the *Constitutional Rights: Origins and Travels* interactive touchscreen near the end of the exhibit.
2. Select “Rights Around the World” on the right side of the screen.
3. Select one of the constitutional rights listed around the map.
4. The text that appears on the screen shows how the U.S. Constitution protects this right for American citizens. Summarize the text in the appropriate box below.
5. Now, select a different country — highlighted in yellow — that has a similar right in its constitution.
6. The text that appears on the screen shows how the country you selected protects this right for its citizens. Summarize the text in the appropriate box below.

What right did you choose? _____

What does the U.S. Constitution say about this right?

What other country did you choose? _____

What does that country’s constitution say about the right you chose?

Which country does a “better” job of protecting the right in their constitution? How so?

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constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution

A FREE
ONLINE
TOOL

The *Interactive Constitution* is a new, FREE, online tool that delivers scholarship from top constitutional experts right to your smartphone, tablet, and other digital devices. It allows students to explore the history behind each article, section, and amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

For each part of the Constitution, a different pair of legal scholars reaches across the partisan divide to co-author a “Common Interpretation” essay explaining the areas in which they agree — including historic origins and analysis of relevant Supreme Court opinions. Then, the same scholars write individual “Matters of Debate” essays outlining leading viewpoints across a range of perspectives on how that part of the Constitution can or should be interpreted going forward. The *Interactive Constitution*’s nonpartisan foundation and ideologically balanced opinions help students have informed, respectful, up-to-date discussion and debate about the Constitution.



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