



Constitutional Principles and  
Structures: SS.7.CG.1.8  
**U.S. Constitution Preamble**  
**READING #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SS.7.CG.1.8 Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will explain how the Preamble serves as an introduction to the U.S. Constitution (e.g., establishes the goals and purposes of government).

The U.S. Constitution begins with a one-sentence introduction called the **Preamble**. The Preamble identifies the goals and purposes of the government.

The Preamble opens with the phrase, “We the People, of the United States” and then states six goals and purposes of the government:

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

The Preamble ends with the phrase: “do **ordain** and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” The final phrase of the Preamble means that the people establish the U.S. Constitution to create a new national government.

**establish justice** - make a fair and honest system for all

**form a more perfect union** - create an even better government that will make life better for all

**insure domestic tranquility** - government will protect citizens from conflict in the country and make sure that states do not go to war with each other

**ordain** - to establish something by law

**Preamble** - the introduction to the U.S. Constitution

**promote the general welfare** - government is focused on the public interest and that every state and individual can benefit from what the government can provide

**provide for the common defence** - protect the country from other countries or groups that might try to harm us

**secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity** - secure liberty and freedom for current and future generations