



Michigan Celebrates Constitution Day 2006

September 18, 2006

Michigan educators can utilize a new opportunity to make teaching and learning of the U.S. Constitution a school-wide event in which all professional *and* support staff can contribute. As a result of an amendment by Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia) to the consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, which was signed into law as Public Law 108-447 by President George W. Bush on December 8, 2004, **all education institutions receiving Federal funds must** hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17th, for the students served by the educational institution. If September 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the law allows the celebration to take place during the preceding or following week. Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed Monday, September 18, 2006 as “Constitution Day” in Michigan for schools and the public to reflect on the importance of the U. S. Constitution.

Document Your Celebration

To showcase your celebration at the state level, the Michigan Department of Education will feature e-mailed photographs and electronic artifacts voluntarily submitted from Constitution Day celebrations that take place in Michigan schools, colleges and universities. A display will be on view in the State Board of Education Room on the Fourth Floor of the John Hannah Building in Lansing and featured on the Michigan Department of Education Website: www.michigan.gov/mde. Include in your e-mail submission: 25 words describing the event, the full name of the school, college or university, the name of the leader or person(s) in charge of the event, K-12 institutions include name of school district. Send e-mails to Karen R. Todorov at todorok@michigan.gov.

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State and National Event

A state and national event in which you can take part: [Simultaneous national group reading of the Preamble to the Constitution](#) will occur on September 18th at 2:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. in the Western Upper Peninsula. For more information on this event, visit <http://www.constitutionday.com/>. Many are suggesting wearing red, white, and blue.

Web-based Resources

While teachers of social studies in every K-12 school district and political science instructors and professors at post-secondary institutions will be a rich resource for ideas, lessons and sources on teaching the Constitution, the Michigan Department of Education has developed a list of web-based resources that may be individualized to support your celebration.

[Bills of Rights Institute](#)

Creative lesson plans grouped into four categories including “American Lives, Primary Source Activities, Bill of Rights in the News and Landmark Supreme court Cases and the Constitution” are available on this site.

Link: http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Instructional/Resources/Lessons/lessons_List.asp

[Constitution Day.com](#)

Along with information on the Preamble and Ratification, this site provides an extensive list of Constitution facts, some items for sale, press releases, flyers and more.

Link: <http://constitutionday.com/>

[What is Constitution Day?](#)

This is a website supported by the National Constitution Center, American Bar Association, Bill of Rights Institute, C-SPAN, Center for Educational Technologies, the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, The Constitution Project, The Council for Excellence in Government, Court TV, Justice Learning, The National Archives, and Scholastic. This kind of collaboration creates the opportunity for every Constitution Day planner to review a sampler of the best work of the leading organizations for education about our government.

Link: <http://constitutionday.us/>

[The Center for Civic Education](#)

This Center in collaboration with the American Association of School Administrators, offers lessons suggested for use at each of the following grade levels Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Link: <http://constitutionday.us/>

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[Preamble to the Constitution Lesson Plan](#)

Specifically written for teachers of grades 3 to 5, [The Preamble to the Constitution: How Do You Make a More Perfect Union?](#) is a 5 day lesson plan that adapts well to older grades as well. Part of the Marcopolo cooperative site with the National Endowment for the Humanities; these lessons incorporate multiple intelligences and critical thinking.

Link: <http://edsitement.neh.gov>

[Simple Preamble Explanation](#)

For teachers looking for a simple explanation of the Preamble to review with students before they jointly read the Preamble on Constitution Day, this site is for you.

Link: <http://wikipedia.org/wiki/UnitedStatesConstitution#Preamble>

[U.S. Constitution](#)

The United States Senate provides an annotated version of the U.S. Constitution on their website. The full text of the Constitution and sidebar interpretations make this Constitution useable.

Link: http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm

[School-House-Rock](#)

You can print it out or sing along to this website which provides the words, and music for one of the most sung of the School House Rock Songs, "The Preamble Way." This is a great way to wake up some of those alternative learning styles! Learning the words to the Preamble to the Constitution is painless, fun, and addictive, "We the People..."

Link: <http://www.school-house-rock.com>

[Preamble to the Constitution--What is Good Government Anyway?Lesson Plan](#)

This lesson plan is written for Grades 3 to 5. The emphasis is on learning how some aspects of good government are included in the Preamble. The culmination of the lesson is a mural.

Link: http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/unit_patriotism_lesson1.htm

[The Articles of Confederation Comparison Chart](#)

The Articles of Confederation was the first document used to rule our nation (March 1, 1781 to June 21, 1788). This website compares the Articles of Confederation and the U.S.

Constitution. Middle School teachers and those looking for an easy to read comparison will find this chart very useful.

Link: <http://usconstitution.net/constconart.html>

[The Constitution Explained](#)

The Constitution Explained is a synopsis of the Constitution, article by article, amendment by amendment in everyday language. This website is a good study guide for reading the U.S. Constitution.

Link: <http://www.usconstitution.net/constquick.html>

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[Background to the passage of the Articles of Confederation](#)

Background to the passage of the Articles of Confederation as well as one-sentence descriptions of the 13 Articles of Confederation are the focus of this website. A rarely seen list of the men who served as President of Congress, the first Presidents, in the years between Independence and the adoption of the Constitution is included.

Link: http://usconstitution.net/consttop_arti.html

[Constitution Day Resource List](#)

The U.S. Courts Educational Outreach Department, part of the Federal Judiciary, sponsors this annotated list of resources to use to plan Constitution Day activities. Resources include portals, information on Constitution Day themes, fast facts, interactive games, simulations and legal landmarks.

Link: <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/constitutionday.html>

[Articles of Confederation Text](#)

Every textbook that discusses the Constitution identifies it as the replacement for the faulty Articles of Confederation. Here is a resource that gives the entire text of the Articles of Confederation, something not found in textbooks.

Link: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/artconf.htm>

[The Federalist Papers](#)

About Guide to 18th Century History Rick Brainard presents the famous letters written in support of the new Constitution by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay.

Link:

<http://americanhistory.about.com/od/usconstitution/ff/federalist.htm?terms=federalist+papers>

[Constitutional Law](#)

The U.S. Constitution and Constitutional Law. Historic legal documents such as the Magna Charta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights that lead to the U.S. Constitution. From About Guide to Lawyers Brian N. Durham.

Link: <http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/constitution/>

[The Founding Fathers](#)

Biographies of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

Link: <http://www.americanrevwar.homestead.com/files/FATHERS.HTM>

[Foundations of Freedom DVD](#)

Center for Educational Technologies - In this DVD curriculum supplement, students study fundamental issues arising from the 200-plus year history of the U.S. Constitution. The DVD uses case studies to immerse learners in various constitutional challenges and themes. Through multimedia, learners tackle such fundamental issues as popular sovereignty, freedom of speech, and judicial review.

Link: <http://www.cet.edu/products/fof/overview.html>

[Justice Learning Constitution Day Resources](#)

Annenberg Center for Public Policy: Justice Learning - To help schools comply with a new federal requirement to offer an educational program on Constitution Day, a prestigious group of educators and media organizations has joined together to create a unique initiative. Justice Talking, NPR's award-winning radio series—in cooperation with the National Archives and Records Administration, the New York Times Knowledge Network, and other partners—will broadcast two programs online and via satellite. Any school or group may show the programs—and build their own educational events around them—without charge.

Link:http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://justicel.bootnetworks.com/constitutionday.asp

[I Signed the Constitution](#)

National Constitution Center - A tool kit which enables a school, federal agency or any organization to set up a kiosk for Constitution Day where citizens can sign the Constitution or decide to abstain. The tool kit is accompanied by education materials and easy to follow how-to instructions.

Link:http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ForEducators/ISignedtheConstitution/index.shtml

[America Reads the Constitution](#)

National Constitution Center - Join with the National Constitution Center's national constitution reading—at your school, federal workplace or organization—in reading the Constitution aloud as a community event. This tool kit contains tips on how to produce an "America Reads" event, complete with a copy of the Constitution divided into 109 parts and supplementary readings. It also includes a form informing the Center that you are a part of "America Reads."

Link:http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ForEducators/AmericaReadstheConstitution/index.shtml

[Centuries of Citizenship: A Constitutional Timeline](#)

National Constitution Center - Centuries of Citizenship: A Constitutional Timeline is an online experience highlighting some of the key dates and events that mark more than 200 years of our constitutional history. These timeline entries tell the evolving story of the U.S. Constitution and the continuing role that it plays in our lives.

Link:http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.constitutioncenter.org/timeline/

[Observing Constitution Day: The Constitution Game](#)

National Archives and Records Administration - Explore in this simulation how the members of the Constitutional Convention might have felt as they gathered in Philadelphia's Independence Hall and began the arduous and memorable task of writing the United States Constitution.

Link:http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/game.html

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[Celebrate Constitution Day](#)

Learn more about the Constitution and the special events planned for Constitution Day at the National Archives.

Link: http://constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution/constitution-day.html

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