



**WE THE PEOPLE**  
CURRICULUM

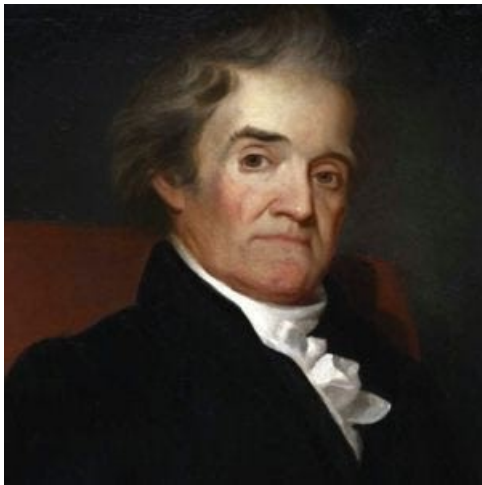
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ARCADIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Equipping our students in the basic understanding  
of the Constitution of the United States**



**Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom.**

*John Adams, Defense of the Constitution, 1787*



***"Every child in America should be acquainted with his own country. He should read books that furnish him with ideas that will be useful to him in life and practice. As soon as he opens his lips, he should rehearse the history of his own country."***

*- Noah Webster, On the Education of Youth in America, 1788*

Arcadia Christian is committed to teaching our students The American Constitution along with the Bill of Rights. ACS Teachers, K-5th and Middle School, are putting together a curriculum in which our students will study the Constitution to understand this country's foundation upon which it stands. We are committed to educate the following areas of American History:

**Events:**

- ◆ Constitution Day, September 17
- ◆ Constitution Showcase
- ◆ 8th Grade Washington DC Trip  
(Spring) 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027

***ACS "We the People..." Curriculum will be fully implemented in the 2021-2022 school year.***



“LIBERTY CANNOT  
BE PRESERVED  
WITHOUT GENERAL  
KNOWLEDGE AMONG  
THE PEOPLE.”

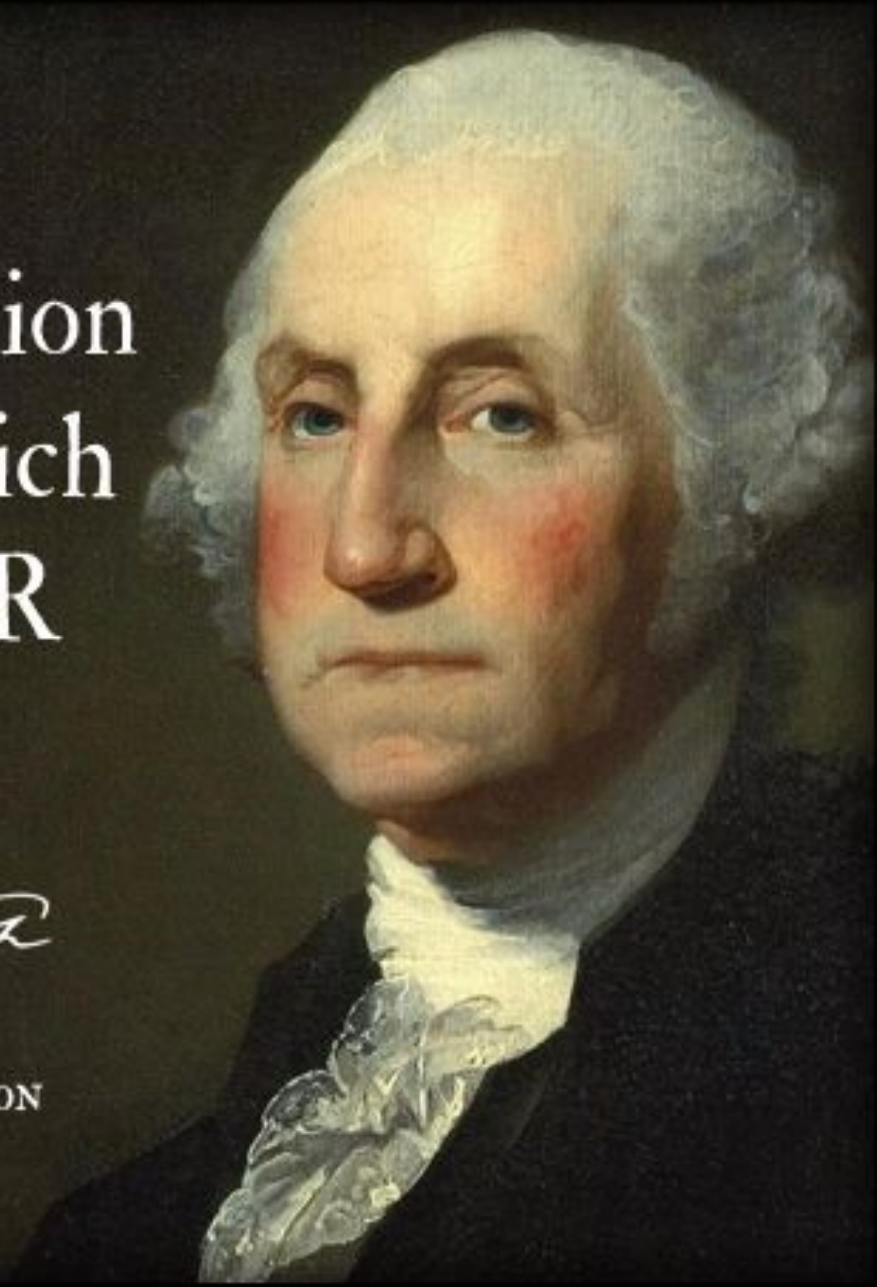
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JOHN  
ADAMS

“The Constitution  
is the guide which  
I will NEVER  
abandon.”

*George Washington*

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON



# Equipping our students in the basic understanding of the Constitution of the United States



## **Kindergarten**

What is Patriotism? Why the Pledge of Allegiance?

## **First Grade**

What is the Constitution?

## **Second Grade**

What is the Bill of Rights?

## **Third Grade**

What are the Three Branches of Government?

The Constitution: Articles 1-3

## **Fourth Grade**

The Founding Fathers

The Constitution: Articles 4-7

## **Fifth Grade**

The Preamble

Reading: George Washington Inaugural Address and Farwell Address to the United States; Founding Father speeches on the Republic

## **Sixth Grade**

The Declaration of Independence

Read: "Common Sense" by Thomas Payne

## **Seventh Grade**

A Deeper Look: The Amendments

Read: "The Federalist Papers"

## **Eighth Grade**

A Deeper Look: The Constitution

Read: The Federalist Papers

## Description of topics to be studied



**Patriotism**, feeling of attachment and commitment to a country or nation.

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

The words “my flag” were replaced by “the flag of the United States” in 1923, because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth, instead of the U.S. flag. A year later, “of America” was added after “United States.” No form of the pledge received official

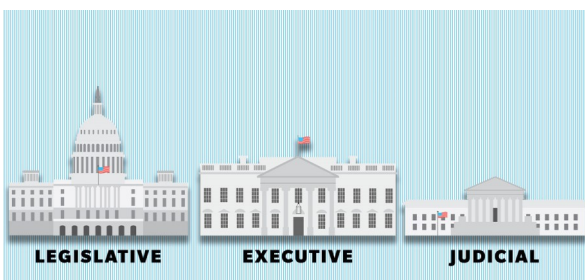
recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when it was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954, when Congress passed a law which added the words “under God” after “one nation.”



**The Constitution**, uniting a group of states with different interests, laws, and cultures. Under America’s first national government, the Articles of Confederation, the states acted together only for specific purposes. The Constitution united its citizens as members of a whole, vesting the power of the union in the people. Without it, the American Experiment might have ended as quickly as it had begun.



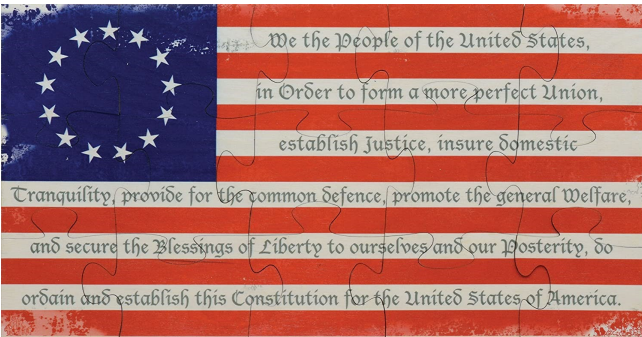
**Bill of Rights**...the first ten amendments to the US Constitution, ratified in 1791 and guaranteeing such rights as the freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship.



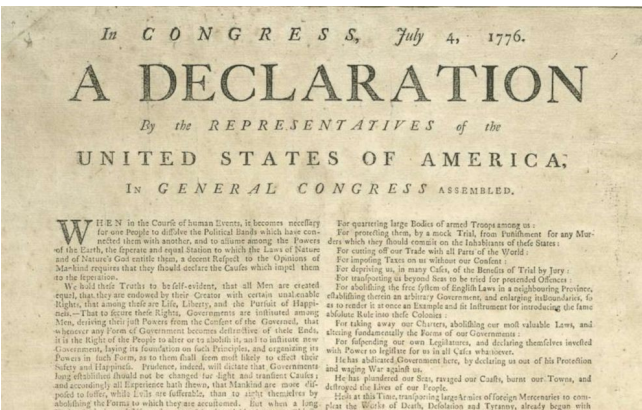
**Three Branches of Government** ensures a separation of powers, the U.S. Federal Government is made up of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. To ensure the government is effective and citizens’ rights are protected, each branch has its own powers and responsibilities, including working with the other branches.



**The "Founding Fathers"** often refers to people who contributed to the development of independence and nationhood. However, the notion of a "framer" or a "Founding Father" is not easily defined. For purposes of this website, "Founding Fathers" are individuals who had a significant impact on the Constitution either directly or indirectly. The following list is by no means complete, but it does identify people who played a large role in the development of the Constitution at this crucial time in American history.



**The Preamble** states the purpose of the Constitution and the intention of the entire document full of laws. The preamble is not actually a law or a legal document, but it is used to make it clear what to expect in the Constitution. Namely, the preamble says that the Constitution aims to create laws around justice, peace, defense, welfare, liberty, and prosperity for a "more perfect" country for Americans.



**Declaration of Independence**, is the document that was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and that announced the separation of 13 North American British colonies from Great Britain.



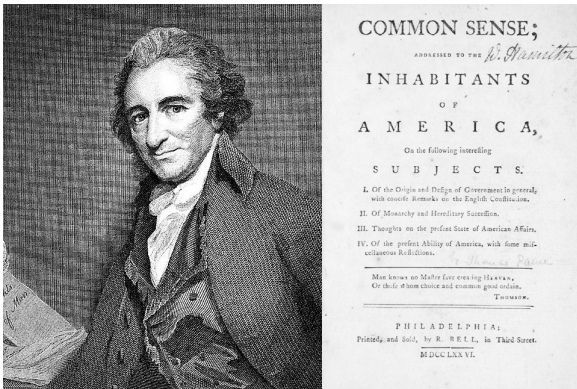
**The Amendments the United States Constitution** is often referred to as a "living document" that grows and changes as society moves forward. These constitutional rights protect the lives of individuals from interference by the government.



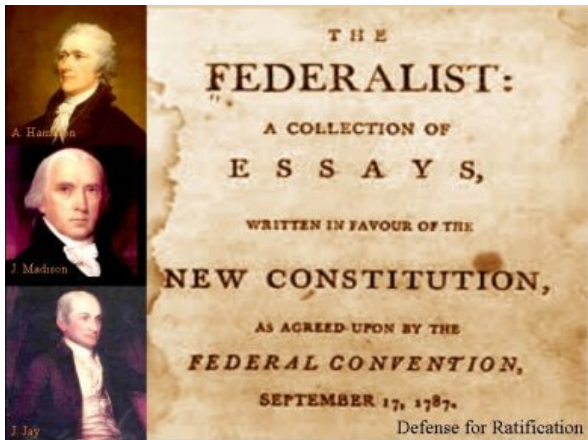
**President George Washington** made his **first inaugural address** before both houses of Congress. He acknowledged Providence as guiding the nation's steps. He explained that the virtuous Americans would make the new nation a model for the world and finally, he closed by putting the responsibility for the nation squarely in the hands of citizens.

Washington's **farewell address** was rooted in the specific challenges he saw facing the United States at the time,

including increasing internal divisions and the ongoing external threat of invasion by stronger nations. But his eloquent message of unity and his warnings against regionalism, partisanship and foreign influence ensured the address would become one of the most widely reprinted documents in American history, with powerful implications that continue to resonate today.



**Common Sense** was published in January 1776 in Philadelphia, nearly 120,000 copies were in circulation by April. Paine's brilliant arguments were straightforward. He argued for two main points: (1) independence from England and (2) the creation of a democratic republic.



**Federalist Papers**, formally The Federalist, series of 85 essays on the proposed new Constitution of the United States and on the nature of republican government, published between 1787 and 1788 by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay in an effort to persuade New York state voters to support ratification (the action of signing or giving formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid).