

Additional titles  
from **film ideas, Inc.**  
in the  
**SYMBOLS OF AMERICA**  
*8 PART SERIES*

The U.S. Flag

Uncle Sam

The White House

The American Bald Eagle

Images of Liberty  
(The Statue of Liberty & The Liberty Bell)

The U.S. Capitol Building

The Declaration of Independence

The Constitution of the U.S. of America



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**Symbols  
of America**  
*8 Part Series*

The  
**CONSTITUTION OF  
THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA**

**INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE**

## INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to acquaint young children to the importance of American symbols. It is designed to teach how symbols are objects or pictures that represents a much larger idea. Throughout American history symbols have played a significant role in how ideas have become an influential fabric of our culture. American symbols represent and communicate who we are and what we value as a society. As children learn the importance of symbolism they will understand their contribution to American history and how symbols have evolved to help shape and define a nation – The United States of America.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of symbols and the joy of learning.

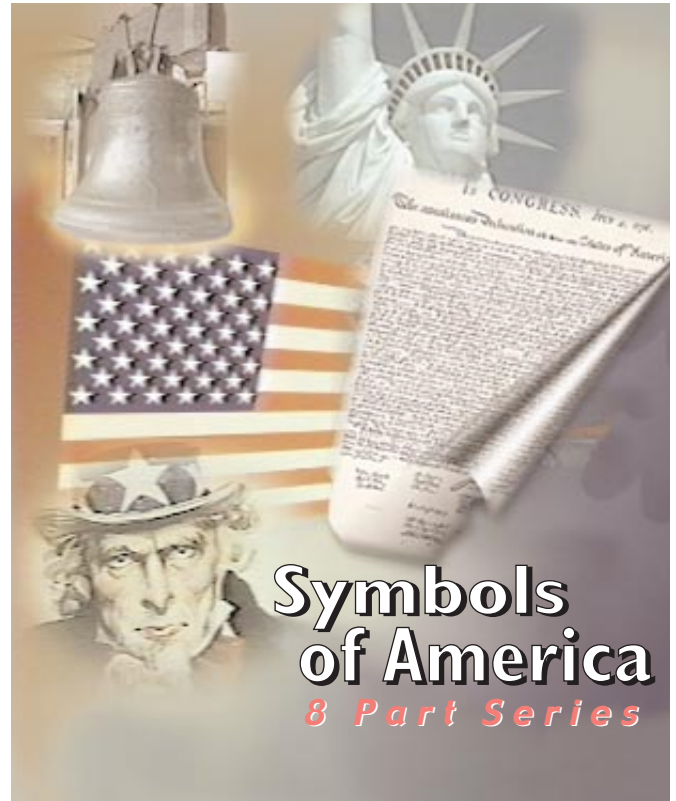
The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓

Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓

Easy-to-learn **reinforcement Q & A!** ✓

E-Guides available at  
[www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)



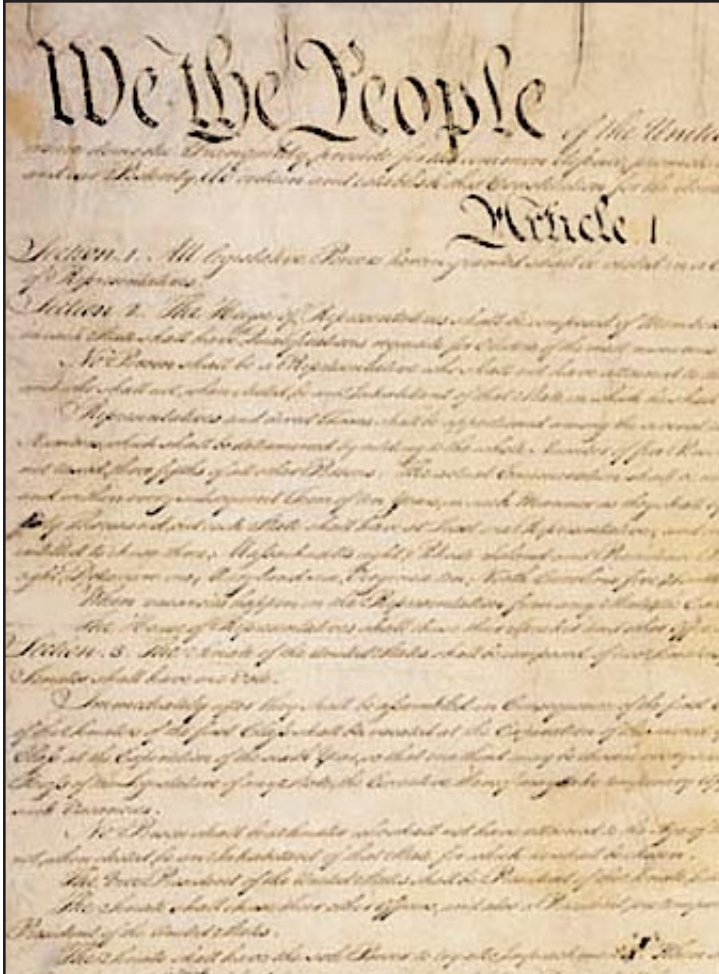
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**CONSIDER VISITING THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

<http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/usconst.html>  
[http://www.constitutioncenter.org/sections/history/history\\_main.asp](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/sections/history/history_main.asp)  
[http://www.archives.gov/exhibit\\_hall/charters\\_of\\_freedom/constitution/constitution\\_q\\_and\\_a.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/charters_of_freedom/constitution/constitution_q_and_a.html)

**Permission granted to copy the  
exercises provided in this guide.  
For educational use ONLY.**

After students successfully complete the exercises chosen in this guide, have them cut out The Constitution of the United States and frame it. Perhaps they can hang it on their bedroom wall to remind them of the great freedoms we enjoy throughout this nation.



## The Constitution Of The U.S. of America

Young students will greatly appreciate the historic and guiding principles outlined in one of America's most significant documents, The Constitution of the United States. While symbolizing the ideals of American liberty and freedom, the United States Constitution also articulates the laws upon which America was founded. These laws provide the standards by which the United States is governed and personal freedoms for all citizens are respected and protected.

Originally written at two conventions in 1786 and 1787, the Constitution officially became the "law of the land" after nine states voted for its approval in 1788. This historic event marked the beginning for when the 13 original colonies would abide by the same set of laws. With the signing of the Constitution the first Presidential election was held in 1789. Twelve years after defeating the British during the Revolutionary War, the newly born United States with its own Constitution was now recognized throughout the world as an independent and unified country.

While seeking to provide equal rights and freedom for all its citizens, the Constitution immediately states in its preamble "We The People". Individual rights and governing powers predicated upon the principles of equality and freedom are detailed throughout the sections known as the "Articles", "The Bill of Rights", and the "Amendments". Together, these sections uphold the system of law and principles upon which a newly born nation called the United States of America was founded and is eloquently preserved by one of America's most treasured symbols—The Constitution of the United States of America.

### Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what symbols are and what "The Constitution of the United States" represents.
- the history of "The Constitution of the United States".
- the important people and events involved with the origins and writing of "The Constitution of the United States".
- why "The Constitution of the United States" was written.

## VOCABULARY:

**Amendments:** A section of the Constitution which guarantees the individual rights of all U.S. citizens. This section includes: civil rights issues, matters affecting government elections, death or removal of a president, a person's eligibility to be elected for state and federal positions.

**Articles:** The seven sections of the Constitution which together insure individual freedoms by defining the organization, the powers and the procedures for the three branches of government; Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

**Bill of Rights:** The first ten amendments which follow the article section of the Constitution and outlines the basic freedoms of all U.S. citizens. This section was primarily written by James Madison who later became America's 4th president.

**Citizen:** A member of a state or country. Such a member offers allegiance to the state and is entitled to the rights offered by the state.

**Preamble:** The introductory section stating the purpose of the Constitution. Its famous words begin with "We The People . . ."

**"Right":** Something to which everyone is entitled i.e. the right to a trial by jury, the right to express opinions, right to choose the kind of work etc.

**Symbol:** An object or picture that represents a much larger idea.

**The Constitution of the United States:** A document written to outline the system of principles or laws by which individual rights are protected and guidelines for elected government officials defined. The sections of this written document include: The Preamble, The Articles, The Bill of Rights and The Amendments.

## Reinforcement Q&A:

Review the video to answer the following questions:

- 1) What part of the U.S. Constitution begins with the words "We The People . . ." ?
- 2) Why was the Constitution of the United States written?
- 3) What are the Bill of Rights? Who was the primary author of the Bill of Rights?
- 4) How many Articles are in the Constitution?
- 5) Name the four main sections of the U.S. Constitution?

- (1) Preamble
- (2) To protect the individual rights and freedoms of all U.S. Citizens and to define the organization, powers and procedures of the three branches of government; Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
- (3) The first ten amendments which outline the basic rights and freedoms for all U.S. citizens. James Madison.
- (4) Seven
- (5) Preamble, Articles, Bill of Rights, Amendments

### ***Follow-Up Activities:***

1) The Constitution of the United States is one of America's most historic documents. Have the children write a short biography about the history of this important American symbol and the freedoms it upholds—use the internet to help.

2) The Constitution of the United States was written during a time when America was in the process of becoming a nation. With an official Constitution the United States was then recognized by the rest of the world as a independent and unified country. Discuss with the children the purpose of the Constitution; 1) To protect individual rights and freedoms, 2) To define the role of state and federal government. Then discuss how this country would be different if the Constitution did NOT uphold the democratic principles upon which the United States was founded. Does your school have certain policies which provide guidelines to help students, teachers, administrators, parents etc. How are these policies similar and different to those outlined in the Constitution.

3) As mentioned in the video a symbol represents a much larger idea. Have the children discuss a problem in your school or community. For example, is there confusion in the lunch room cafeteria as to how the children should line up and be served for food and beverages; or is there miscommunication about where certain school supplies should be stored; are certain rooms and school yard areas properly marked for student safety etc. After discussing the problem evaluate whether the problem can be solved by the children creating posters which effectively communicate ideas through symbols.

### ***Exercise #1:***

Have the students study the vocabulary list on page 2. Then write the number of the vocabulary word on the solid black line next to its definition.

#### **Vocabulary List:**

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) <i>Executive Branch</i> | 3) <i>James Madison</i> |
| 2) <i>Bill of Rights</i>   | 4) <i>Citizen</i>       |

\_\_\_\_\_ *Primary author of the Bill of Rights.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *A member of a country who is entitled to the individual rights offered by the state.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *The part of government which defines the role of the president.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *The first ten amendments of the Constitution which outlines the basic freedoms for all U.S. citizens.*

**Exercise #2:** A brief outline of the U.S. Constitution is provided on page 4. Study the outline on pg. 4 then turn to page 5 and write the missing parts of the Constitution on the solid black line.

**PREAMBLE:**

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

**ARTICLES:**

ARTICLE I: The Legislative Branch Section 1-10:

ARTICLE II: The Executive Branch Section 1-4:

ARTICLE III: The Judicial Branch Section 1-3

ARTICLE IV: Relations Between the States Section 1-4

ARTICLE V: The Amendment Process

ARTICLE VI: General Provisions, Supremacy of the Constitution

ARTICLE VII: Ratification Process

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:**

• **The Bill of Rights:**

Amendment I: Freedom of speech, religion, press, & assembly.

Amendment II: Right to bear arms and militia.

Amendment III: Quartering of soldiers.

Amendment IV: Warrants and searches.

Amendment V: Individual debt and double jeopardy.

Amendment VI: Speedy trial, witnesses and accusations.

Amendment VII: Right for a jury trial.

Amendment VIII: Bail and fines.

Amendment IX: Existence of other rights for the people.

Amendment X: Power reserved to the states and people.

End of The Bill of Rights

Amendments XI-XXVII

\_\_\_\_\_:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

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ARTICLE III: \_\_\_\_\_ Section 1-3

ARTICLE IV: Relations Between the States Section 1-4

ARTICLE V: The Amendment Process

ARTICLE VI: General Provisions, Supremacy of the Constitution

ARTICLE VII: Ratification Process

\_\_\_\_\_:

• \_\_\_\_\_

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