



# Constitution Compendium

## Classroom Activities ~ Grade Level K-2

### Common Core Standards

CC1.2.1.B      CC1.2.2.B  
CC1.2.2.C      CC1.2.2.C

### Objective

Students will learn that the Preamble is the introduction to the highest law of the land, the U.S. Constitution.

### Materials

Book: We the Kids-the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States, by David Catrow.

Video: School House Rock! 'The Preamble' to the Constitution, available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKPmobWNJaU>

Video: School House Rock-The Preamble Lyrics, available online at <https://www.schoolhouserock.tv/Preamble.html>

Drawing paper, poster paper, pencils, crayons

Worksheets offered at the end of this lesson.

Website: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/join-the-signers>

### Teacher Presentation

The teacher will show the video School House Rock! 'The Preamble' to the Constitution to the class.

The teacher will introduce the book We the Kids by David Catrow.

The book is an entertaining story that brings the Preamble to life. Big words and big ideas of the Preamble are explained line by line at a level of children's understanding.

Any prior knowledge of the Preamble will be established by the teacher before reading.



# Constitution Compendium

## Classroom Activities ~ Grade Level K-2

page 2

The book will be read aloud by the teacher.

The teacher will explain the words in the Preamble using the vocabulary in the children's book.

The children will brainstorm a list of rules for their class and develop an appropriate list to be recorded and written by the teacher for everyone to see.

The video School House Rock! 'The Preamble' to the Constitution will be shown again and connections to the book We the Kids will be made.

Every child will write their own Preamble using the template provided in the "We the Students" worksheet.

An example of the child's Preamble will be provided by the teacher.

*An example:*

We the students of Name of Teacher's class promise to do our best work and treat each other nicely and follow the rules.

Every child will draw a self-portrait.

Students will sign the official Preamble on the website <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/join-the-signers>

All portraits will be displayed on a bulletin board with each child's Preamble.

## **Reading List for K-2**

A is for America, by Greg Paprocki

Constitution Translated for Kids, by Kathy Travis

Shh! We're Writing the Constitution, by Jean Fritz

The Constitution for Babies, by D.K.

We the Kids, by David Catrow

We the People, by Greg Harlin

We the People-the Constitution of the United States, by Peter Spier

What is the Constitution? by Patricia Brennan Denuth



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## Classroom Activities ~ Grade Level K-2

*page 3*

### Web Resources for K-2

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/join-the-signers>

[Bensguide.gpo.gov](https://www.bensguide.gpo.gov)

[https://constitutioncenter.org](https://www.constitutioncenter.org)

[www.abcteach.com](https://www.abcteach.com)

[www.homeschoolcreations.net](https://www.homeschoolcreations.net)

[www.reallygoodstuff.com](https://www.reallygoodstuff.com)

[www.teacherspayteachers.com](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com)

We the students of \_\_\_\_\_

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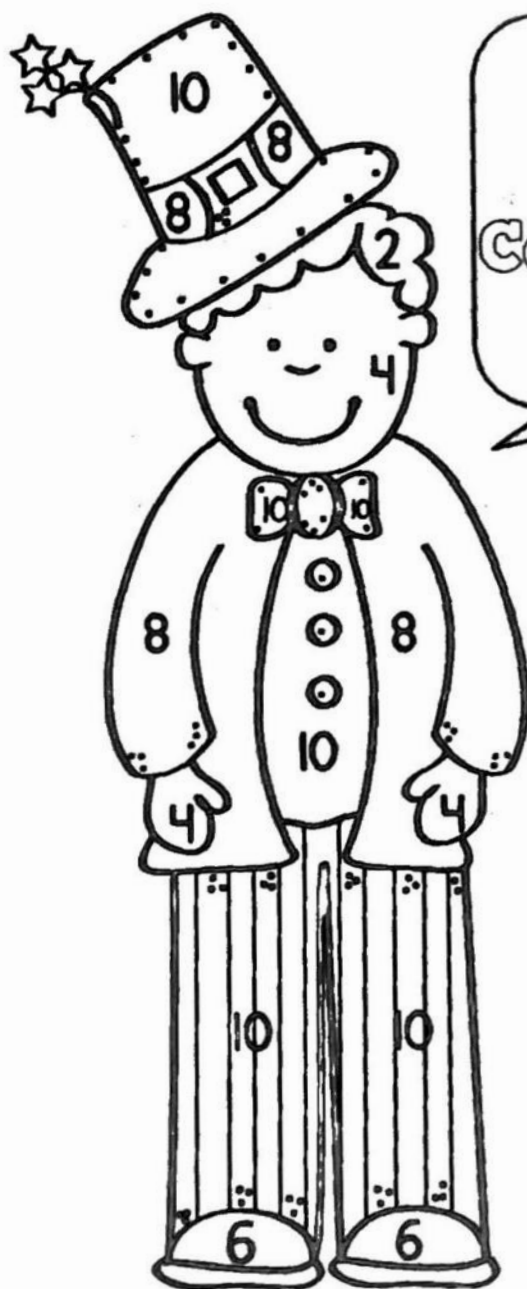
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Color  
me for  
Constitution  
Day!

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

10 = blue

8 = red

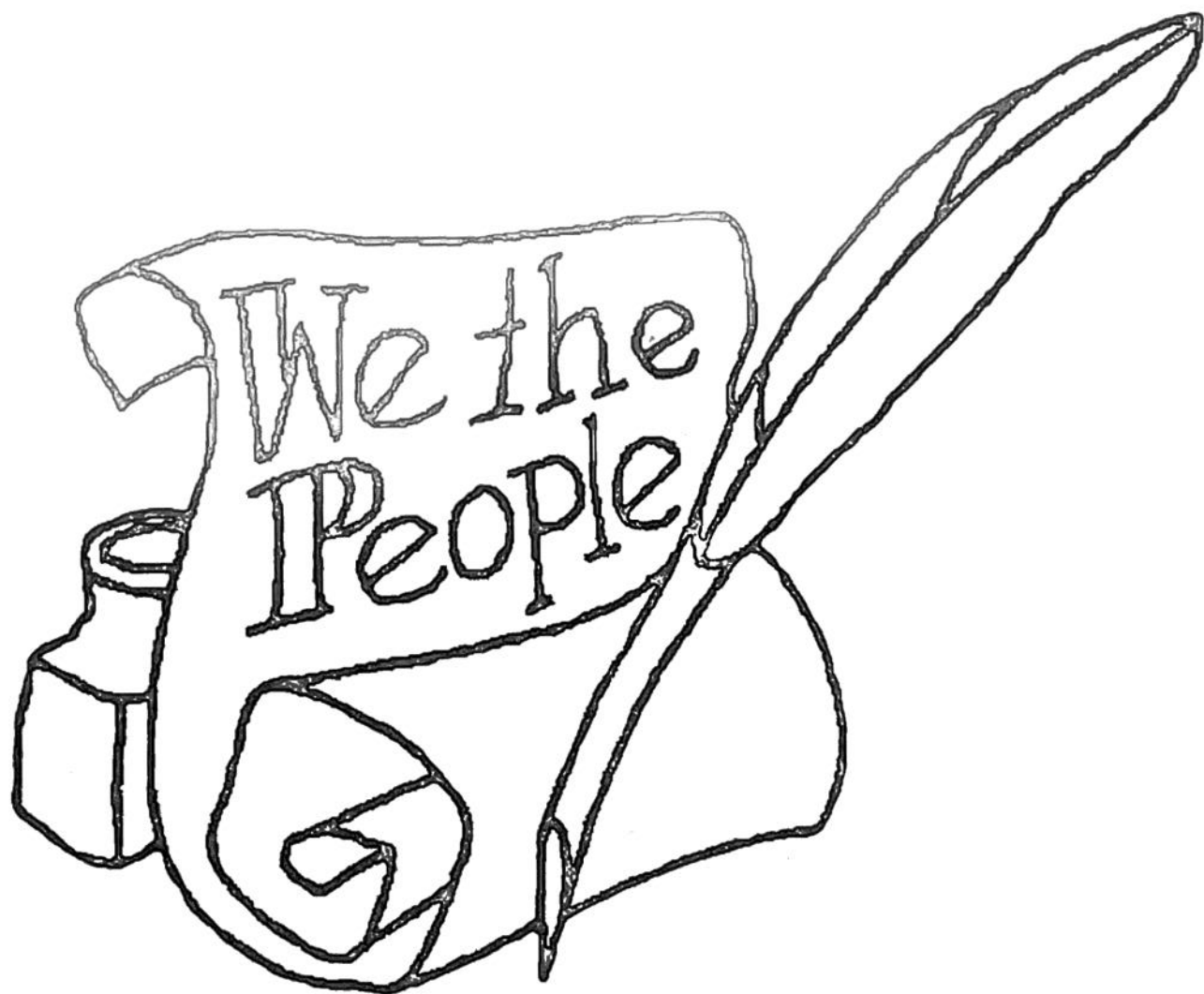
6 = black

4 = skin color

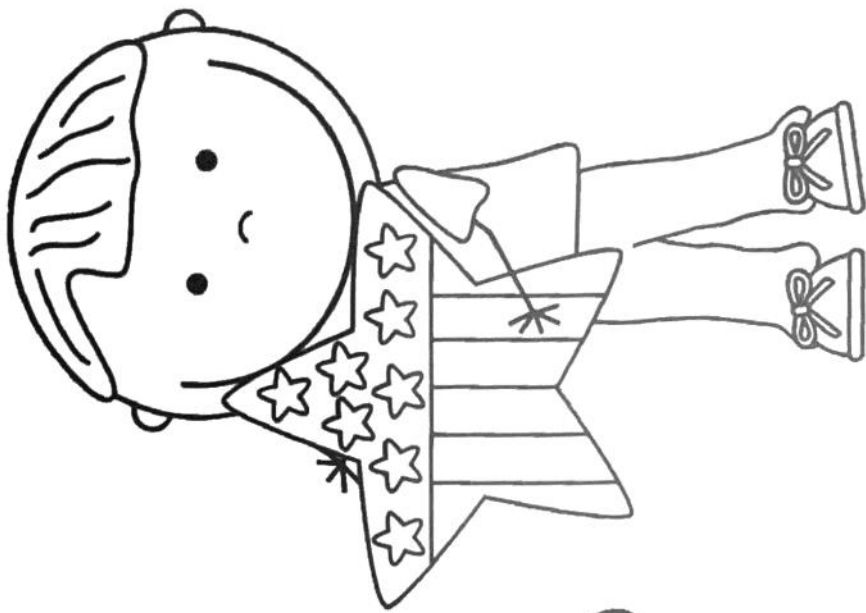
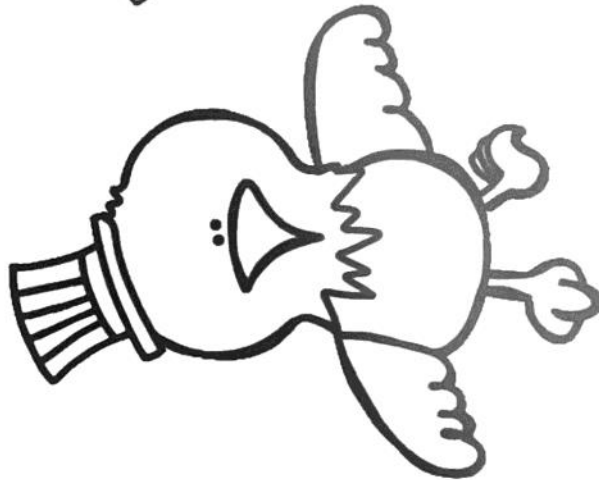
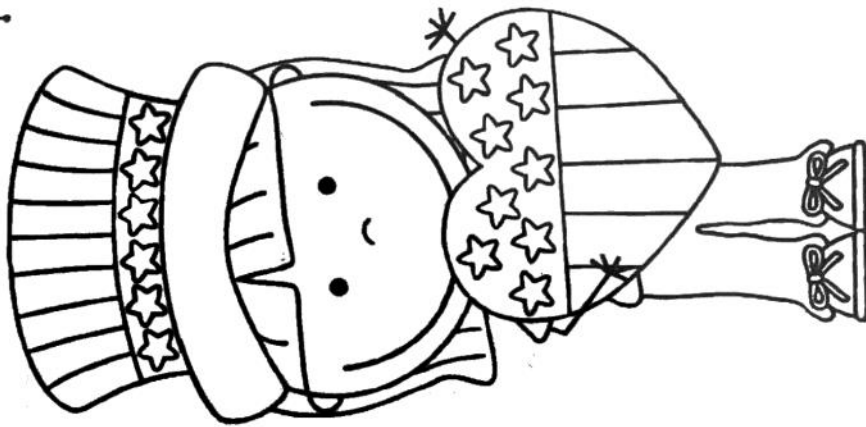
2 = hair color

## **U.S. Constitution Facts**

1. On September 17, 1787, all 12 state delegations approved the Constitution and 39 of the 42 delegates present at the Convention signed it.
2. At 81 years old, Benjamin Franklin was the oldest person to sign the Constitution.
3. In 1787, Philadelphia was the nation's largest city with a population of 40,000. There were 4 million people in the country.
4. George Washington and James Madison were the only presidents who signed the Constitution.
5. James Madison proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution, of which 10 became the Bill of Rights.
6. The U.S. Constitution has 4,000 words and is the oldest, shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.
7. There are 27 amendments to the Constitution, of which the first 10 are the Bill of Rights.
8. On June 21, 1788, the Constitution became effective for the ratifying states when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.
9. The first presidential election took place on February 3, 1789, but the results were not known until April 6.
10. On December 15, 1791, Virginia ratified the Bill of Rights and 10 of the 12 proposed amendments became part of the U.S. Constitution.



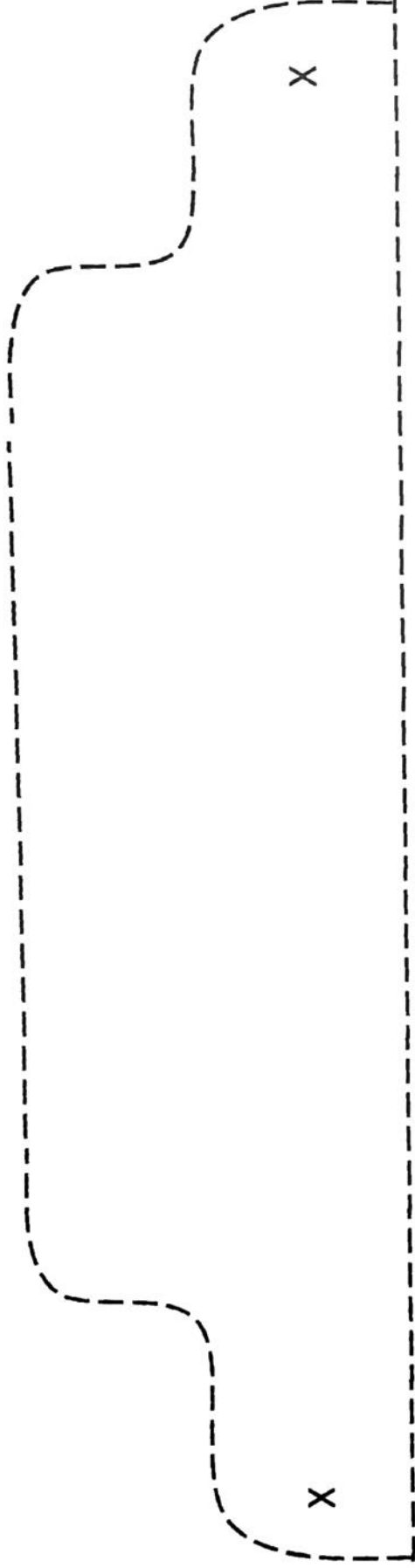
Hip hip hooray!  
It's Constitution Day.  
I'm proud to be a citizen of the USA.





## Tricorne Hat Craft Activity

THE MUSEUM OF *We the People*

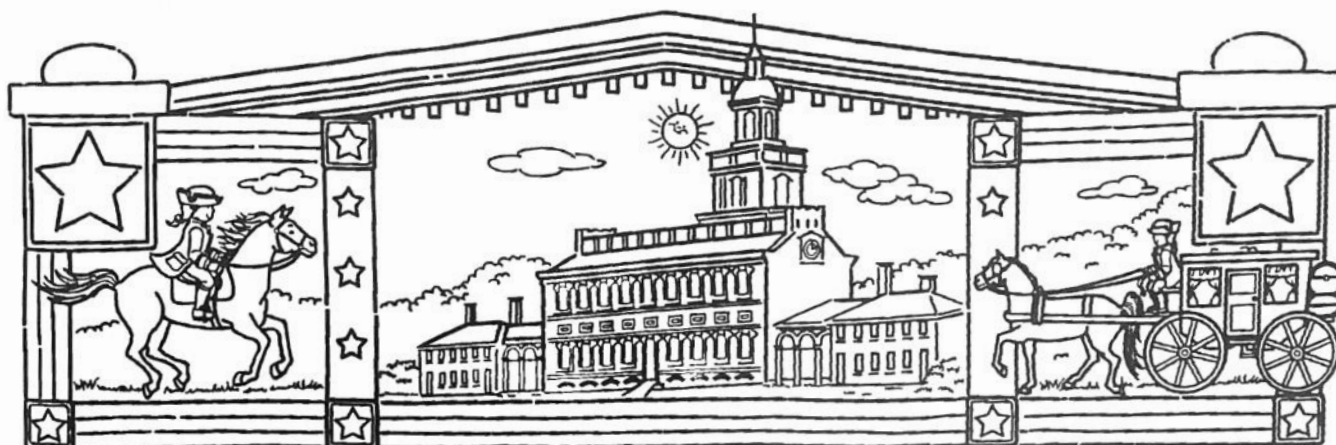


### Directions:

- Print out this sheet of paper, and cut out the template above.
- Use the template to trace the shape onto black construction paper three times, then cut out the three pieces of your hat.
- Using tape, glue, or staples, attach the pieces together—attach at the spots indicated by the “X” on the template.
- Now wear your tricorne just like the Founders!



Use the figures for book covers or as puppets; can be glued on brown bags or popsicle sticks. Use the delegate border on bulletin boards and displays.

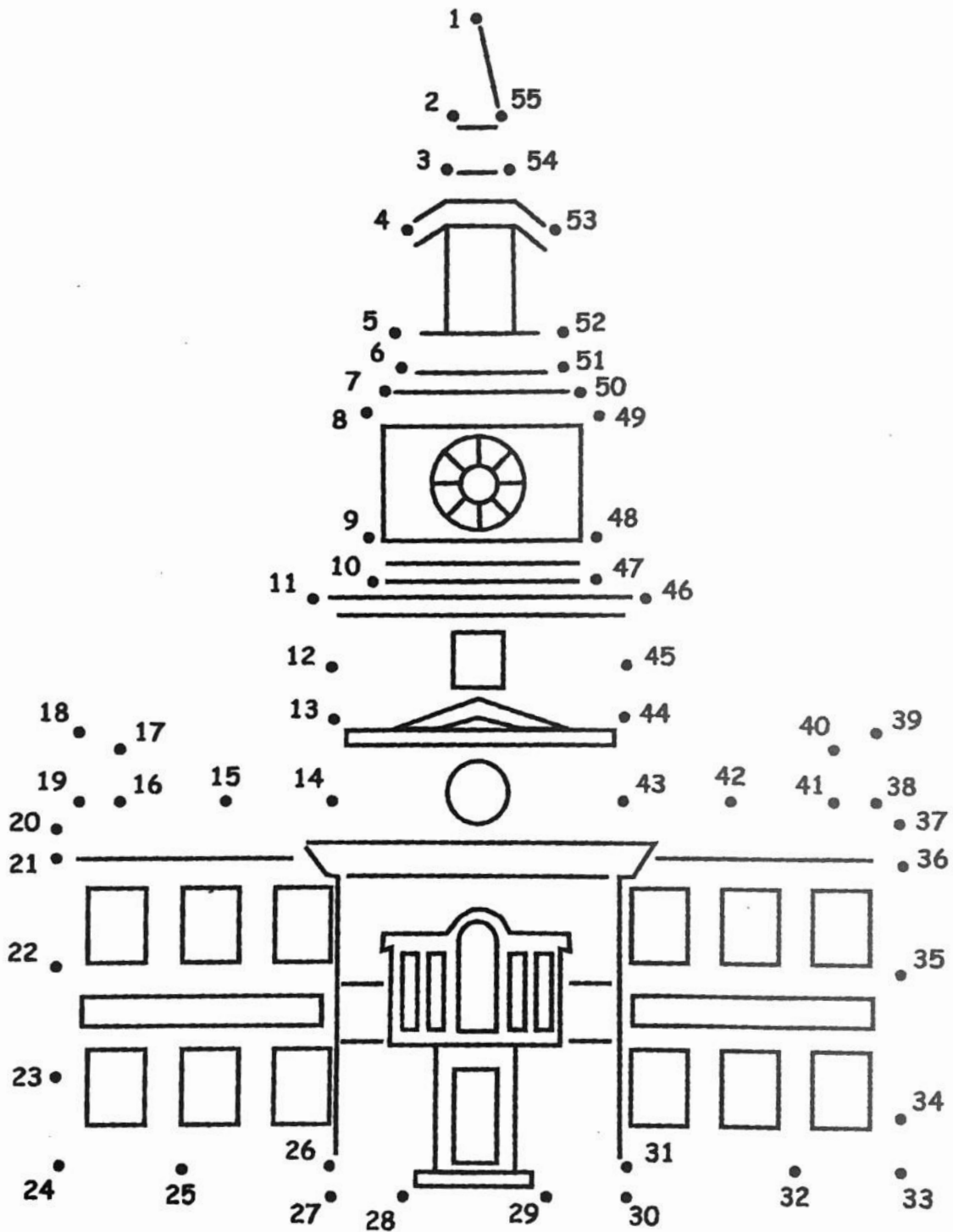


In 1787, fifty-five delegates representing 12 of the 13 new states traveled by horse, boat, and carriage to meet at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their goal was to create a different, better plan. This gathering, which lasted more than three months, was called the Constitutional Convention. George Washington was in charge of the meeting. James Madison recorded the ideas that were discussed.



The men knew that America needed a strong government. They also wanted to make certain the states each had rights. Finally, on September 17, 1787, they decided they had written a good, workable plan. On that day, not all the delegates were present. Of those who attended, 39 of the men signed the plan known as the United States Constitution that outlines the rules and guidelines our country still follows today.

# Dot to Dot



**Fun Fact:** When the Constitution was signed, the population of the U.S. was 4 million. Today it is more than 300 million.

A decorative scroll with a quill pen. The scroll is unrolled, showing a large area for writing. A quill pen is positioned on the right side of the scroll, pointing towards the top right corner. The scroll has a thick, dark border.

# We the People

I can be a  
good citizen  
by

sign here