

Constitution Day Lesson
Second Grade
Our Country of Many People

Main ideas of this lesson:

- Citizens are a group of people who belong to a community or a country.
- Our country has over 250 million citizens.
- Americans are different in that they come from many places and backgrounds.
- Americans are the same because they share a country and a responsibility to follow the laws of our country.

Connections to the Constitution:

- The highest law of our country is our Constitution.
- Our Constitution helps bind us together as Americans.

Basic Ideas about the Constitution for second graders:

- The law is the set of rules that we live by. The Constitution is the highest law. It belongs to the United States. It belongs to all Americans.
- The Constitution says how the government works. It creates the President. It creates the Congress. It creates the Supreme Court.
- The Constitution lists some key rights. Rights are things that all people have just because they are alive. By listing the rights, they are made special. They are made safe. The Bill of Rights is a part of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights lists many rights of the people.
- The Constitution was written in 1787. So, is over 200 years old. We actually have old copies of what was created.
- In 1787, a group of men met to write the Constitution. They did not like the way the country was going. They fixed it by creating the Constitution. We call these men The Framers.
- Some of the framers are very famous. George Washington was a Framers. So was Ben Franklin.
- The Framers met during a hot summer. They had a lot of arguments. In the end, they agreed to the words in the Constitution. They knew they had to agree. If they did not agree, the fighting would keep going.
- After the Framers wrote the Constitution, they asked the states to approve it. It took some time, but all the states did approve it.
- Some people did not like the Constitution. Some were afraid because it did not protect the rights of the people. It had no bill of rights.
- Promises were made to add a bill of rights. After the Constitution passed, the Bill of Rights was added. The Bill of Rights is the first ten changes to the Constitution.

Activity: see attached sheet

- Guide students in writing the word 'Constitution' in the correct space on the Activity Sheet.
- Have students fill in the space around the Constitution graphic on the outline U.S. map with drawings of different people. Make sure to stress the importance of showing diversity in the drawings.

Supplemental Activities:

- **Video:** *Snoopy and the Making of the Constitution or Shh! We're Writing a Constitution*
- Constitution Day is the Birthday of the Constitution. It was written in 1787. Have students determine which birthday it is this year. It is definitely more than the 100th birthday!

Americans share a _____.

