

# LET ME SEE THAT!



**September 17**

## **Birthday of the U.S. Constitution**

**Standard 5:** Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the U.S. and other nations; the U.S. Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation.

**Catalog Number: V3078**

**Title: Almost painless guide to the U.S. Constitution VHS**

**Edition:** CLOSED CAPTIONED

**Imprint:** UL 1999

**Physical Description:** 20 mins col 1

**Summary:** Amusing co-hosts Harlan and Marie lead us step by step through the document that forms the basis of our governments. Students will learn about the ideals of American Constitutional government, the theory of the "We the People," and the concepts laid out by the Preamble. We'll also discuss how the Constitution empowers the government to fulfill its responsibilities, while at the same time limiting those powers. The Bill of Rights and the amendments are also covered in detail.

**Audience:** [Intermediate, Junior High, Senior High](#)

**Catalog Number: V5855**

**Title: American Constitution: the road to Runnymede VHS**

**Imprint:** AIMS 1992

**Physical Description:** 58 mins. col 1

**Summary:** This program examines the English roots of the U.S. Constitution, explaining how the fundamental principles of "rule of law" and "limited government" have been translated into the American system. Host Christopher Reeve guides viewers through dramatic recreations covering 600 years of political struggle from Magna Carta in 1215 to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787. Viewers will relive the political turmoil of 17th century England and become acquainted with John Locke and others whose theories greatly influenced colonial America.

**Audience:** [Senior High, Intermediate, Junior High](#)

**Catalog Number: X1557**

**Title: Civil War: a new birth of freedom VHS**

**Imprint:** Rainbow 2002

**Physical Description:** 32 mins. col 1

**Summary:** This video provides an excellent and clearly explained overview of America's Civil War as it examines the impact of slavery on the nation and why it was the underlying cause of the Civil War. The program also looks at the compromises made in our Constitution so slavery could exist in a free land. And it further explores the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision, all of which attempted to keep the lid on the controversy over slavery, but only helped bring the war closer. Special emphasis is placed on the evolving course of the war itself, which began as a constitutional conflict about keeping the United States united, but eventually became a war for the freedom of four million slaves. "A New Birth of Freedom"- words from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address- makes this most tragic, and heroic, event in American History come alive for students and teachers alike. Includes teacher's guide video ...

**Audience:** [Intermediate Junior High, Senior High](#)

**Catalog Number: X258**

**Title: The Constitution of the United States of America VHS**

**Imprint:** Educational distributors 1993

**Physical Description:** 60 col 1

**Summary:** Here is the solid review of the language and meaning of the Constitution. This video opens with a quick look at Colonial history and the events leading up to the Constitutional Convention. The narrator then reads through the document. The text of the Constitution appears on screen, accompanied by graphics and illustrations from historic prints, paintings, and modern photographs. As the narration covers each of the 37 amendments, viewers learn of important court cases that interpreted the protections of the Constitution. The emphasis is clearly on the original language.

**Audience:** [Senior High, Junior High](#)

**Catalog Number: X327**

**Title: Curriculum VHS**

**Imprint:** Ambrose 1998

**Physical Description:** 23 mins. col 1

**Summary:** There is nothing in the Constitution about education and hence, not national curriculum. So what are high school students supposed to learn and who decides? This program looks at how high school curricula are made and practiced in different states. Also features razor-sharp opinions from Hunter High School teens on what is taught to students and what it means.

**Audience:** [Junior High, Senior High](#)

**Catalog Number: X748**

**Title: Equal rights for all VHS**

**Edition:** CLOSED CAPTIONED

**Imprint:** Schlessinger 1996

**Physical Description:** 25 mins. col 1

**Summary:** Irene Bedard narrates this unprecedented American history series created especially for young children. This multi-volume series provides a balanced portrayal of U.S. history, covering standard historical figures and events as well as the perspectives of women, children and other groups whose stories are often overlooked. Each program teaches important aspects of America's

history through the use of large, brightly colored graphics and animations, charming live-action portrayals of historic figures and engaging stories told from a child's point of view. Sing-along songs with on-screen lyrics and upbeat music add to the excitement of these programs.

**Audience:** [Kindergarten, Primary](#)

**Catalog Number: X999**

**Title: In the beginning VHS**

**Imprint:** PBS 1987

**Physical Description:** 58 col 1

**Summary:** This program features discussions with Michael Kammen, Pulitzer Prize winner, and professor of history at Cornell University, about the Constitution's place and role as a symbol in American life.

**Audience:** [Senior High, Adult](#)

**Catalog Number: X1582**

**Title: Independence VHS**

**Imprint:** 100% Educational Video 1976

**Physical Description:** 30 mins. col 1

**General Note:** Commissioned for the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration, this lavish production featuring legendary director John Houston and an Academy Award-winning cast is a must for every American student.

**Summary:** This video covers the period from 1775 through 1800 in Philadelphia. Out of the mist they - Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Thomas Paine return to tell of the struggle for Independence and the founding of our nation. Their stirring discussions and debates in Independence Hall bring to life the importance and meaning of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

**Audience:** [Intermediate, Junior High, Senior High](#)

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**Catalog Number: V1187**

**Title: We the kids: the preamble to the Constitution of the United States VHS**

**Imprint:** Spoken Arts 2003

**Physical Description:** 10 mins. col 1

**Summary:** Based on the picture book by David Catrow and introduced by the author. Three youngsters and a basset hound set out on a camping trip guided by the words of the Preamble.

**Audience:** [Primary](#), [Intermediate](#)

**Catalog Number: V7529**

**Author:** [Maestro, Betsy](#)

**Title: A more perfect union: the story of the Constitution VHS**

**Imprint:** SpkenArts 1998

**Physical Description:** 15 col 1

**Summary:** The men who met in Philadelphia to create our nation's most precious document lived through a very human drama.

**Audience:** [Preschool](#), [Primary](#)

**Catalog Number: V7576**

**Title: Shh! We're writing the Constitution VHS**

**Imprint:** WWS 1998

**Physical Description:** 32 mins. col 1

**Summary:** Jean Fritz introduced elementary and middle school students to the delegates at the 1787 summer convention in Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison and many others traveled there to draft a plan that would unify their states while preserving their sovereignty.

**Audience:** [Primary](#), [Intermediate](#)

**Catalog Number: X751**

**Title: United States Constitution VHS**

**Edition:** CLOSED CAPTIONED

**Imprint;** Schlessinger 1996

**Physical Description;** 25 mins. col 1

**Summary:** Irene Bedard, the voice of Disney's Pocahontas, narrates this unprecedented American history series created especially for young children. This multi-volume series provides a balanced por-

trayal of U.S. history, covering standard historical figures and events as well as the perspectives of women, children and other groups whose stories are often overlooked. Each program teaches important aspects of America's history through the use of large, brightly colored graphics and animations, charming live-action portrayals of historic figures and engaging stories told from a child's point of view. Sing-along songs with on-screen lyrics and upbeat music add to the excitement of these programs.

**Audience:** [Kindergarten](#), [Primary](#)

**Catalog Number: V6044**

**Title: Our Constitution VHS**

**Imprint:** Rainbow 1993

**Physical Description:** 24 col 1

**Summary:** Fully utilizing the spectacular backdrop of the events which surrounded the "We the People 200" celebration, in Philadelphia 1987, this video simply, clearly and with dramatic flair examines and explains the historical significance of the Constitution, its structure and function, and its present day meaning and importance.

**Audience:** [Intermediate](#)

**Catalog Number: V5833**

**Title: We the people: the growth of the Constitution VHS**

**Imprint:** NEWDIM 1992

**Physical Description:** 15 col 1

**Summary:** Through dramatic reenactment, live action and archival footage, this program shows courageous people who defended or challenged Constitutional law. Includes a family that opposed secessionist efforts that led to the Civil War, the Women's Suffrage movement in the early 1900's, and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's.

**Audience:** [Intermediate](#), [Junior High](#)

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**Catalog Number: V5913**  
**Title: The Presidency VHS**

**Imprint:** Rainbow 2004

**Physical Description:** 28 mins.

**Summary:** Our Federal Government (U.S. State Dept. and the Voice of America) have selected Rainbow's "Our Federal Government" video series to broadcast to 287 embassies throughout the world. This is the series that will be used to show the world how our system of government has evolved and how it works today.....Over 200 years ago when the authors of the Constitution created the executive branch of the Federal Government, they also specified the basic powers and responsibilities of the Presidency. This program explores the Presidency, its influence and power, and its relationship to the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

**Audience:** [Intermediate, Junior High](#)

**Catalog Number: V5912**  
**Title: The Legislative Branch VHS**

**Imprint:** Rainbow 2004

**Physical Description:** 30 mins.

**Summary:** The authors of the Constitution established Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government. Congress is an arena for expressing opinions, agreeing, disagreeing, and for compromise. Controversy is also oftentimes a part of this branch as seen during the Clinton impeachment proceedings. In spite of this, no President can effectively govern without the support of Congress. This program examines the role of Congress, its organization, powers and responsibilities, and requirements to serve.

**Audience:** [Intermediate, Junior High](#)

**Catalog Number: V3077**  
**Title: Almost painless guide to the judicial branch VHS**

**Edition:** CLOSED CAPTION

**Imprint:** UL 1998

**Physical Description:** 20 mins. col 1

**Summary:** The Almost Painless Guide to the Judicial Branch looks at judicial checks and balances,

the functions of the Supreme Court, and the appointment of Justices. It also delves into judicial overview of lower courts and the power of the Supreme Court to influence history.

**Audience:** [Intermediate, Junior High, Senior High](#)

**Catalog Number: JD9**  
**Title: Making of the Constitution Jackdaw**

**Imprint:** Jackdaw Pub. 1972

**Physical Description:** col 1

**General Note:** Buell map of the United States of North America, 1784; a chronology on the Making of the Constitution and a list of delegates to "The Grand Federal Convention." Edmund Randolph's presentation of the Virginia Plan; page of Washington's copy of first printed draft of the Constitution; draft of Benjamin Franklin's speech on slavery; Gallery of portraits with contemporary comments; proposal for the Bill of Rights.

**Summary:** This jackdaw observes the participants and examines the issues, ideals and principles that led to our Constitution. The historical document replicas allow students to touch and read some of the same documents our founding fathers used. Hands-on documents include three forms of the Constitution, a proposal for a Bill of Rights, a chronology of events and a list of the delegates to "The Grand Federal Convention." Historian: Elizabeth Bidwell Bates

**Audience:** [Junior High, Senior High](#)



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**Catalog Number: V645**

**Title** Limited government and the rule of law VHS

**Imprint:** AITECH 1987

**Physical Description** 30 col 1

**Summary:** Features a dramatic episode in which constitutional law directly affects teenagers. Important court cases and events illustrate how countries that have constitutional government differ from those that do not.

**Audience:** [Senior High, Junior High](#)

## U.S. Constitution Websites

### [US Constitution Education](#)

Celebrate the Constitution's Birthday with Mt. Hood Community College. Presentations in power point and pdf of the Full Constitution, Original Constitution, Founding Fathers, and the Amendments.

[www.mhcc.edu/pages/1462.asp](http://www.mhcc.edu/pages/1462.asp)

### [National Constitution Center](#)

This site contains several different ways to learn about our Constitution. Try the Interactive Timeline.

[www.constitutioncenter.org/explore/ForKids/index.shtml](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/explore/ForKids/index.shtml)

### [Constitutional Day, September 17, 2006](#)

200 resources to help your class celebrate the birthday of our Constitution.

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday/display/MainS/Home>

## Power Media Plus

The following titles are available through the Power Media Plus program. A User ID and password is required.

### **Digital Video**

#### **History (U.S.)**

[A Little Rebellion Now & Then: Prologue to the Constitution](#)

[Just the Facts: Documents of Destiny: Creating a New Nation](#)

[Just the Facts: Documents of Destiny: National Expansion](#)

## [Shh! We're Writing the Constitution](#)

### **Digital audio**

[U.S. Government: The First 200 Years: A Constitution for Yesterday, A Constitution for Today The Constitution of the United States of America 7 Audio Files](#)

[The Constitution of the United States of America: Article 1](#)

[The Constitution of the United States of America: Article 2](#)

[The Constitution of the United States of America: Article 3](#)

[The Constitution of the United States of America: Article 4](#)

More items....

### **Resources**

#### **Children's Literature**

Teacher's Guide for **Shh! We're Writing the Constitution** | [Open](#) | [Add to Class](#) | [Lesson plan](#) | [Assignment](#)

This classic story by Jean Fritz is great for literature and history lessons.

**Pri 1–3, Int 4–6 | Children's Lit**

#### **Speeches**

**Calvin Coolidge: "Duty of Government" (1920)**  
0:04:11

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