

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Handout 1: Lyrics to "Preamble"**

Hey, do you know about the U.S.A.?  
Do you know about the government?  
Can you tell me about the Constitution?  
Hey, learn about the U.S.A.

In 1787 I'm told  
Our founding fathers did agree  
To write a list of principles  
For keepin' people free.

The U.S.A. was just startin' out.  
A whole brand-new country.  
And so our people spelled it out  
The things that we should be.

And they put those principles down on paper  
and called it the Constitution, and it's been  
helping us run our country ever since then.  
The first part of the Constitution is called the  
preamble and tells what those founding  
fathers set out to do.

We the people,  
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.

In 1787 I'm told  
Our founding fathers all sat down  
And wrote a list of principles  
That's known the world around.

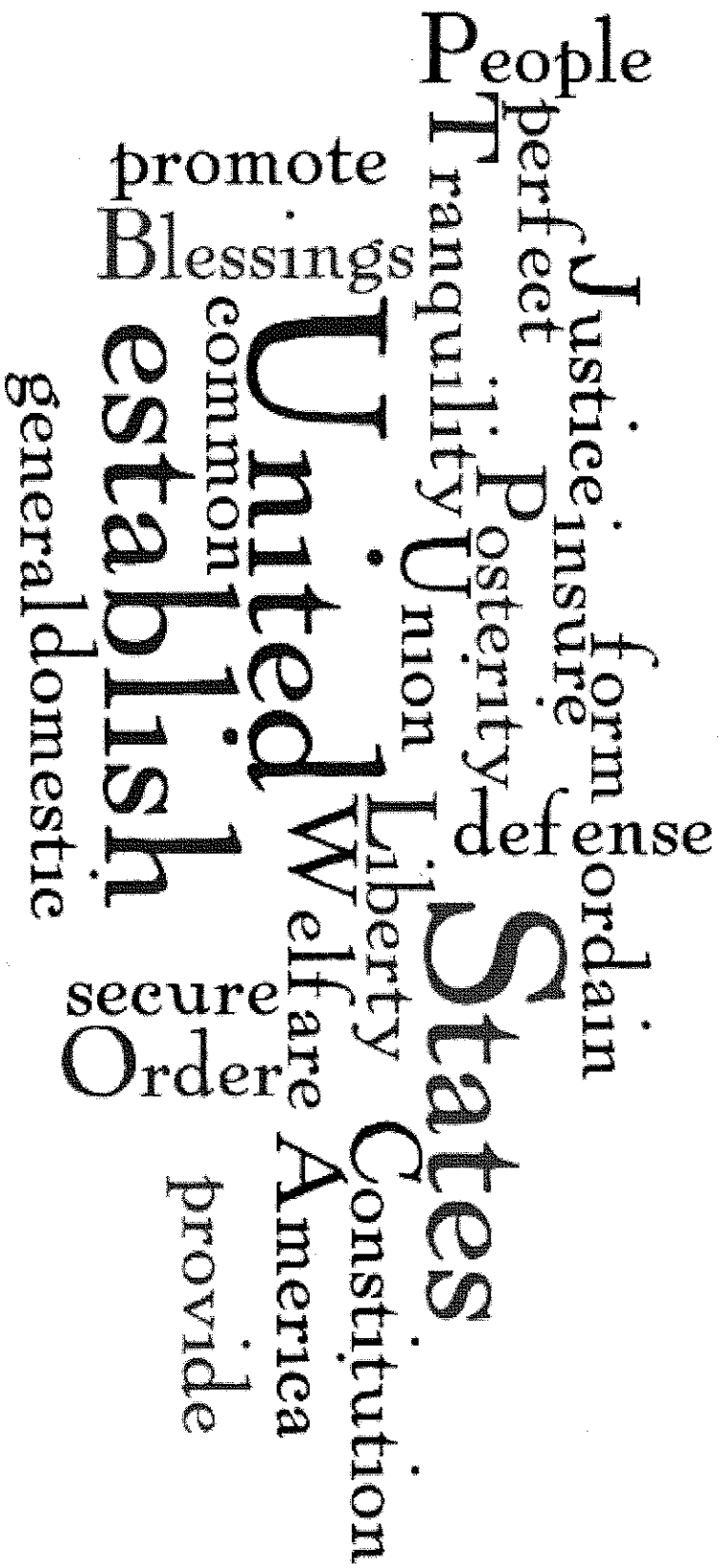
The U.S.A. was just starting out  
A whole brand-new country.  
And so our people spelled it out  
They wanted a land of liberty.

And the Preamble goes like this:  
We the people,  
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.

For the United States of America...

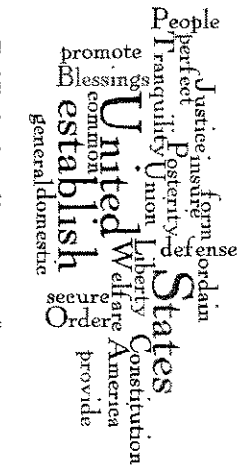
*Note: The lyrics here have a slightly abridged wording of the Preamble to the United States Constitution. The actual document starts, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..."*

**Music & Lyrics by: Lynn Ahrens  
Performed by: Lynn Ahrens**



Visual 1: Word Cloud of Preamble

**Student Handout 2: Vocabulary Matrix**



Word Cloud made possible using [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)

**Directions:** 1) Read the excerpt. 2) Define each underlined term in the second column using words students your age would use. 3) Create a simple visual to represent one or more of the terms taken from the excerpt in the third column. 4) With your group, write a brief summary as to why these words from the excerpt are important to citizens today. Be prepared to share a specific example in your group's response to the large group discussion.

Excerpt	Definition(s)	Visual	Why is it important?
<p><i>We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect <u>Union</u>...</i></p>			
<p><i>... establish <u>Justice</u>, insure <u>domestic Tranquility</u>, provide for the common defense, promote the general <u>Welfare</u>...</i></p>			
<p><i>... and secure the Blessings of <u>Liberty</u> to ourselves and our <u>Posterity</u>, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</i></p>			

Justice, posterity, Liberty, Union, Welfare, Constitution, America, provide, general, domestic, establish, United States, common, Liberty, Welfare, Constitution, America, provide

Word Cloud made possible using [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)

### Student Handout 3: Discussion Items

**Directions:** Use this handout along with Student Handout 2: Vocabulary Matrix as a guide for the group discussion. Be prepared to have one person in your group share a response to the discussion items related to the excerpt. The role of presenter will rotate for each excerpt.

Excerpt	Discuss the following items related to the excerpt.
<p><i>We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect <u>Union</u>...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•What does Union mean?</li> <li>•How would you describe “union” to other classmates?</li> <li>•What did the authors mean when they said “a more perfect union?”</li> <li>•What can we do today to make our union more perfect?</li> </ul>
<p><i>... establish Justice, insure domestic <u>Tranquility</u>, provide for the common defense, promote the general <u>Welfare</u>...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•What do the terms Justice, Domestic Tranquility, and Welfare mean?</li> <li>•How would you describe these terms to other classmates?</li> <li>•What did the authors mean when they said “provide for the common defense?”</li> <li>•Give an example of how the government provides Justice, Domestic Tranquility or Welfare.</li> </ul>
<p><i>... and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our <u>Posterity</u>, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•What do the terms Liberty, Posterity, and Ordain mean?</li> <li>•How would you describe these terms to other classmates?</li> <li>•What did the authors mean when they said “..to ourselves and our Posterity?”</li> <li>•What blessings of Liberty do you hope to pass along to your posterity?</li> </ul>