



# The Constitution Rules!

**OBJECTIVE:** Read to learn the laws in the United States Constitution for Constitution Day.

**STANDARDS:** Social Studies (NCSS): Power, authority, and governance; civic ideals and practices

**“The Constitution says our country has a President, not a king or queen.”**

## BEFORE READING

### Pre-Teach Vocabulary

Introduce the word *Constitution* to prepare for reading.

Point to the word on the front cover, read it aloud, and have children repeat it after you. Next say, “The Constitution is a set of laws, or rules, for our country. It is written on four sheets of paper.” Tell children to think about the rules of the classroom. Then ask, “What are rules?” Elicit that rules tell people what they can and cannot do.

## DURING READING

### Read-Along Predictable Text

Invite children to help you read the issue using the Read-Along feature.

Show children the Read-Along logo on the upper left corner of page 2:



Read aloud the sentence, “That is a rule.” Practice it with children. Show children that the same sentence appears in blue throughout the issue. Tell them that you will read all the words in black. It’s their job to read the sentences in blue.

## AFTER READING

### Make Personal Connections

Help children find ways in which they live by the rules written in the Constitution.

Are the Constitution’s rules only for grown-ups? No way! Help children make connections to the rules by asking questions about money (“Do you and your friends all use the same kind?”), holidays (“Do families get to celebrate the ones they want? Do you know anyone who celebrates different ones than you do?”), and voting (“Have you ever been with your mom or dad when they voted?”).

## READ-ALONG BACKGROUND

### Making the Constitution

- The Constitution was written 222 years ago. September 17 was the date that the leaders of our country signed it. That’s why we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17.
- The Constitution was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The leaders met there because it used to be our country’s capital. Now the capital is Washington, D.C., so the Constitution is kept there.
- You can go to Washington, D.C., to see the real Constitution up close. The paper is very old, so you can’t touch it. It is kept in a glass case, and there is someone there to guard it because it is so important!

### Why Is the Constitution So Important?

- At the time the Constitution was written, kings and queens ruled many other countries. Kings and queens were born into their jobs. People did not vote for these leaders. Often, there were wars when someone else wanted to become king or queen.
- The Constitution says our country has a President, not a king or queen. We, the people, vote to say who we think would do the best job. Voting is a peaceful and fair way to pick the country’s President.

### Constitution Fun Facts

- Constitution Day is a special day at schools all over the country. It’s a time for kids to learn what the Constitution is and what it says—just like you’re doing right now.
- There is a special celebration on September 17 called America Reads the Constitution. People all over the country read the whole Constitution out loud. The words in the Constitution may be long and old-fashioned, but the ideas are still great!