



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

Use the **Key Word** feature to introduce the word **Constitution**.

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



Explain that each issue has a **key word**, or an important word to know. In this issue, the key word is **Constitution**. Read the definition aloud. Then ask, “Why is it important to know this word?” Elicit that without knowing the definition, readers would not understand what the magazine issue is about.

DURING READING

Understand Text Features

Help children use labels and captions.

Pause after reading the green box on page 2. Tell children to point to President Obama. Explain that the green box with the arrow pointing to the President is called a **label**. Labels tell who someone is. After reading the purple box on page 3, ask children, “What do the kids want? How do you know?” Lead children to find the purple **caption** at the top-right corner of the page. Explain that captions give information about pictures.

AFTER READING

Make Personal Connections

Discuss how the Constitution plays a part in children’s everyday lives.

The Constitution is just as important to kids as it is to grown-ups! Lead children to connect our country’s laws to their own experiences, with questions such as, “Do your friends celebrate different holidays?” and “Have you ever been with your mom or dad when they voted?”

READ-ALoud 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 in a building called the National Archives.
- Over the past 222 years, some changes have been made to the Constitution. They are called **Amendments**. One of the Amendments ended slavery. Another one gave women the right to vote.

Why Is the Constitution So Important?

- At the time the Constitution was written, many countries around the world had kings or queens as their rulers. 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!