

Constitutional Footnotes

Understand a Primary Source

DIRECTIONS: Read the Preamble to the United States Constitution below. Then figure out what the footnoted, or numbered, words and phrases mean. Write the number of the footnote next to the best explanation.

We the people of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect Union,¹
establish justice,²
insure domestic tranquillity,³
provide for the common defense,⁴
promote the general welfare,⁵ and
secure the blessings of liberty⁶
to ourselves⁷
and our posterity,⁸
do ordain⁹
and establish¹⁰
this Constitution for the United States of America.

- _____ a. set up a fair system
- _____ b. set up
- _____ c. make sure there is peace at home
- _____ d. make a better government
- _____ e. make official
- _____ f. supply protection for all
- _____ g. encourage health, happiness, and comfort
- _____ h. gain and keep the gifts of freedom
- _____ i. everyone who later becomes part of this country
- _____ j. everyone belonging to this country