



## What is Constitution Day?

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the United States Constitution and recognizes all people born in the United States as citizens and those who became citizens through naturalization. The day is observed on September 17th, which is the day the delegates signed the Constitution at the Constitution Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. Constitution Day did not become a federal observation day until 2005 when the day would be observed alongside Citizenship Day.

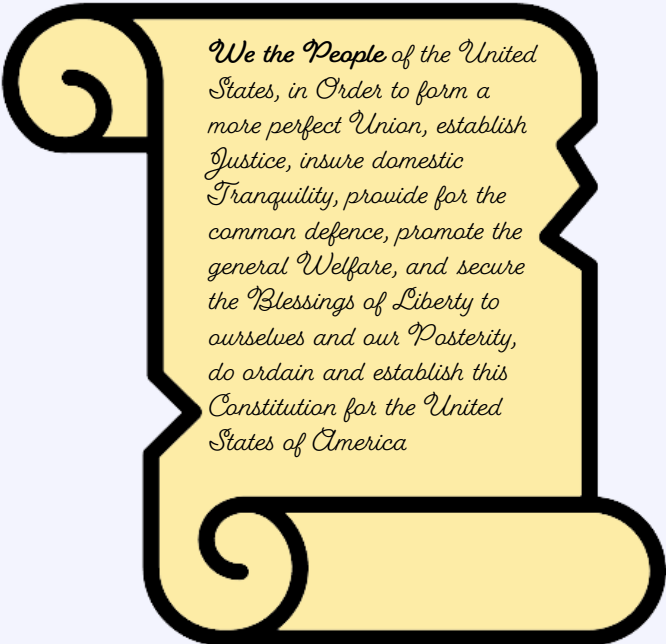
## What are the origins of Constitution Day?

In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as "I am an American Day." The new holiday was celebrated across the nation with special ceremonies recognizing newly naturalized citizens. In 1952, Congress renamed the holiday "Citizenship Day" and moved it to September 17th to coincide with the signing of the Constitution and to recognize all people who have attained full status of citizenship by coming of age or naturalization. In 2004, September 17th became designated by law as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. The purpose of the day remained that same with the addition of a mandate requiring schools that receive federal funds to hold an educational program about the United States Constitution.

## Why is Constitution Day important?

Constitution Day is an opportunity for all citizens and especially students to reflect on how the Constitution has shaped our history and our lives. Americans are encouraged to observe the day by attending events in their area and schools can meet the federal requirement by joining with federal courts to engage students in learning about the Constitution.

Reciting the preamble to the Constitution has become embedded in the traditions of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. On this day, ponder the promises of the preamble by reading the introduction to the Constitution and reflecting on it's impact in your life.



*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, 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*