On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed the most influential document in American history: the United States Constitution. This document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that "We the People" enjoy today. The Constitution was signed by thirty-nine courageous men who changed the course of history. Every American shares in this legacy of liberty and has the responsibility as a citizen to respect and defend the values of our founding fathers as well as participate in the unfolding story of freedom.
History of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

In 1939 newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst advocated a day to celebrate US Citizenship. In 1940 the Congress created "I Am an American Day" to be celebrated in the third Sunday in May. On February 29, 1952, President Harry Truman signed into law "Citizenship Day" replacing I am an American Day. On August 2, 1956, the Congress requested that the president proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week".

Constitution Day became a national observance in 2004, when the Congress passed a bill designating September 17 as the day for citizens to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution and learn more about our founding document. The chief sponsor, Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat from West Virginia, once said, "Our ideals of freedom, set forth and realized in our Constitution, are our greatest export to the world." He added the Constitution Day clause to his 2004 federal spending bill because he believed that all citizens should know about their rights as outlined in the Constitution. This clause mandates the teaching of the Constitution in schools that receive federal funds, as well as federal agencies.

DoDEA joins the nation in honoring our Founding Fathers. Share your celebrations on social media by including #WeThePeople and #ConstitutionDay in your posts!

Resources

Constitution Day Activity Ideas Gathered from around DoDEA
Questions and Answers about Constitution Day

Federal Resources

National Archives
National Constitution Center
US Department of Education

Related Links

Celebrating Constitution Day with Primary Sources
Constitution Day
A Proclamation on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and Constitution Week, 2022

America is founded on the most powerful idea in history — that we are all created equal. That idea sparked our revolution, ignited a wave of change across the world, and beats in the hearts of Americans today. It is central to our Constitution, and citizenship embodies a true faith and allegiance to give it full meaning in our everyday lives. On this Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and during this Constitution Week, we recommit to protecting and defending the very idea of America.

Downloadable Posters
DoDEA Training Resources: Constitution and Citizenship Day

Citizenship Day

Citizenship Day, which was formally known as "Veteran's Day," was first celebrated in the early 1930s. Originally created as a way to honor the military, it evolved into a day to recognize the contributions of all Americans to the United States. In 1975, the United States Senate renamed "Veteran's Day," now known as Constitution Day, to honor the contributions of Americans to the nation.

In 2004, the Bush Administration formally changed "Veteran's Day" to "Citizenship Day." This day, along with Constitution Day, recognizes the卓 outstanding contributions to the nation's growth and well-being.

Additional Resources & References

For more information visit:
- https://www.doed.gov/DoDEA/Constitution
- https://www.doed.gov/ConstitutionDay
- https://www.doed.gov/ConstitutionDayResources
- https://www.doed.gov/CitizenshipDay

Constitution and Citizenship Day Training

Every year on the 17th of September, we celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia. The Constitution provides the framework for the United States and is the supreme law of the land.

The Constitution is the foundation of our nation, and it is important to understand its principles and how it affects our daily lives. The Constitution guarantees individual liberties and ensures that the government is accountable to the people.

The Constitution is divided into four parts:
- The Preamble
- The Articles
- The Amendments
- The Bill of Rights

The Constitution and Citizenship Day Training is designed to help you understand these parts and how they relate to our daily lives. The training includes quizzes and interactive activities to help you learn more about the Constitution.

Constitution and Citizenship Day Training:

- The Preamble: The Preamble sets the stage for the Constitution and provides a brief overview of the purpose of the document.
- The Articles: The Articles are the main body of the Constitution and outline the three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial.
- The Amendments: The Amendments are changes to the Constitution that were made over time to address new issues and challenges.
- The Bill of Rights: The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the Constitution and guarantees individual liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press.

DoDEA provides training resources to help you learn more about the Constitution and Citizenship Day.
