

# WE THE PEOPLE

**Emphasis** The Preamble of the Constitution

**Objective** To help each child gain a basic foundation for the understanding of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

- Preparation** Materials needed:
- Picture of Gouverneur Morris
  - Copy of original Constitution
  - Picture charts of the "Six Great Sayings" (included; make a transparency or copies for students)
  - Sheet Music for "We the People" (included; make copies for students)
  - A copy of the sign language for each child (included; make a transparency or copies for students)

**Suggested Outline**

Show the picture of Gouverneur Morris and tell the children who it is. Explain that his name did not mean that he was a governor, but that when he was born, he was given the name Gouverneur as his first name. Have the children repeat his name (pronounced GOO-ve(r)-nore).

Tell the children that when Mr. Morris grew up to be a man, he was very smart. He lived at the time that George Washington lived, and became well known as a writer. He knew how to write things down on paper so that people could understand











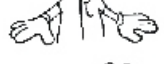

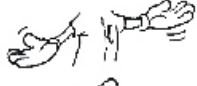









them easily. He is most famous for writing some important words called the "Preamble." Isn't that a strange word? Repeat it with me. Now I will show you what a Preamble is. (Show the picture of the Constitution and point to "We the People...." Tell the children that the Preamble is just three lines long, and begins with these larger words, "WE THE PEOPLE"--point to Preamble.)

Now, look at all this other small writing. These are the rules for America. Just like we have rules in our classroom, our country has rules, too! (Discuss your class rules for a few minutes.) Yes, our rules make us feel good because we are cooperating together. Gouverneur Morris wrote this preamble to explain that if the rules in the Constitution are obeyed, six wonderful things will happen in America. (Display each of the six picture charts, one at a time, and read the captions. Allow for discussion and/or questions.)

After showing the picture charts, then teach the song "We the People," using the actions. Explain that the six great sayings you talked about have the same meaning as the big words in the song.

Hand out copies of the sign language for the children to take home. Encourage them to learn it so well that they can teach it to their families.

## The Preamble in Sign Language

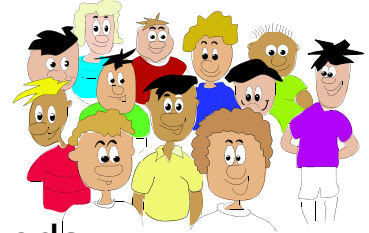
WE (both hands pointing to chest)		PROMOTE THE GENERAL (salute)	
THE PEOPLE (arms outstretched)		WELFARE (hand over heart)	
OF THE UNITED STATES (fingers of both hands interlocked),		AND SECURE (right hand grasping air)	
IN ORDER TO FORM (hands held as though molding something)		THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY (right arm high in a Statue of Liberty pose)	
A MORE PERFECT UNION (fingers interlocked palm to palm),		TO OURSELVES (hand on chest)	
ESTABLISH (outstretched hands pressing down)		AND OUR POSTERITY (lift right hand stair step fashion to indicate different heights),	
JUSTICE (turn hands over and simulate balancing of scales),		DO ORDAIN (laying on of hands)	
INSURE (cover left thumb with right hand as protection)		AND ESTABLISH (outstretched hands pressing down)	
DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY (folded hands to cheek simulating sleep),		THIS CONSTITUTION (simulate unrolling a scroll)	
PROVIDE (open hands pushing outward as though offering something)		FOR THE UNITED STATES (fingers of both hands interlocked)	
FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE (fists doubled in posture of defense),		OF AMERICA (arms outstretched simulating an eagle in flight).	

# Six Great Sayings

The Preamble says that when the rules in the Constitution are obeyed, these things will happen.

## 1. IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION

The people who live in America can all be friends.



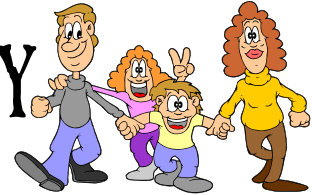
## 2. ESTABLISH JUSTICE

All the people in America will be treated fairly.



## 3. INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

The people in America will live in peace.



## 4. PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE

The people in America will be protected from their enemies.



## 5. PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE

The people in America can help each other be happy.



## 6. SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY

The people in America can choose what they want to do and where they want to go.

