

**Road Branch Elementary & Middle School**

# **NTID PACKETS**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**



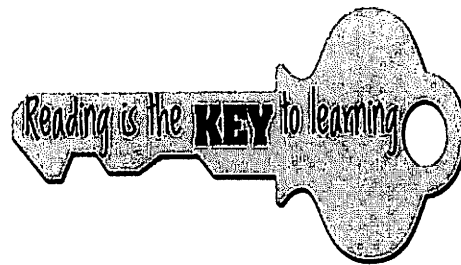
**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**DAY 2**

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**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**



**ELA**

**DAY 2**




# THE U.S. CONSTITUTION - SECOND READ

Go back through the text and highlight the three main parts of the Constitution, their purposes, and an example of each. Write them in the table below.

Part	Purpose	Example

## THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

 When the United States won its freedom from Great Britain, James Madison and the other Founding Fathers got to work planning what the country's government would be like. After a lot of discussion and compromise, the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. This important document is the framework of how the government operates.

The Preamble is the first part of the Constitution. The purpose of the Preamble is to explain why the Constitution was written and to explain what the Founding Fathers hoped to achieve. "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 of the United States of America." In other words, the Founding Fathers wanted a country where they could have the freedoms that weren't guaranteed while living under British rule. They not only wanted this for themselves, but they also wanted to make sure that generations to come enjoyed the same freedoms that they fought so hard to win.

The articles make up the next section of the Constitution. The first three articles define the structure of the government. They create three equal branches of government - the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches. The legislative branch is made up of the senators and representatives that we elect to serve in Congress. Their job is to make laws. The executive branch has the President and his or her staff. They put the laws into action. The judicial branch is the Supreme Court and other courts. They make sure that the laws follow the Constitution. The Constitution makes sure that none of these branches has too much power. This is called the system of checks and balances.

The final section of the Constitution is the amendments. These are the changes that have been made to the Constitution over time. There have been twenty-seven amendments. The first ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment gives the freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, press, and petition. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.

The Constitution is one of the things that makes the U.S. special!