

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# We the People

America wasn't always independent.

At one time, the country belonged to Britain,

So a British king ruled. But that was no more—

After America won the Revolutionary War.

And to run the country, instead of a king,

The revolutionary leaders said, "Let's try a new thing."

Self-governing, done by the people—

A new concept, an experiment.

How would it look? No one knew for sure,

But people had ideas that they wanted to explore.

In 1787, the Founding Fathers

Crafted the Constitution, and they thought of

Rules for a government by the people.

It was full of rights and certain freedoms.

But they themselves couldn't make it law

'Cause the first three words said who was in charge:

"We the people!" That was the phrase

Under which this document was made.

It was the states who passed the Constitution into law

And gave power to the people once and for all.

In the US, we decide who gets elected

By voting, and the people we selected

Can make decisions for us, but we hold the power.

We the people! This country is ours.

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Today, with over 300 million people in the US,  
The whole self-governing thing would be a mess  
If it wasn't for government officials.

But how do they work with "we the people"?

Well, guess what? We decide who they are  
When we vote in elections, and that's all part  
Of the Constitution. It's all laid out there  
To help keep things orderly and fair.  
We consent or agree to give them the ability  
To make big decisions that affect you and me.

The Declaration of Independence calls this  
Consent of the governed. We're the people that it covers.  
And we can also be a part of the government;  
Any one of us can run and be elected,  
Which is truly incredible. It's magnificent—  
Because you could become our next US president.

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We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.