

# Social Studies

Do you know what Braille is? \_\_\_\_\_

It is raised dots that make up a tactile (touch) way of communicating. People who are blind or cannot see well enough to read use Braille to read the dots with their fingers instead of their eyes.

Louis Braille was born in France on January 4, 1809. When he was three years old, Louis was blinded in one eye because of an accident. The eye became infected and the infection spread to his other eye. He invented the first version of his raised dot system of reading when he was only fifteen years old! He spent the rest of his life educating blind children and improving the Braille system. He even wrote a version for reading music.

Before this, there was another system for blind people to read. It was just like regular letters, but raised up. But it took much longer to understand and it was nearly impossible for blind people to use the same system to write things of their own.

Unlike sign language, which has multiple versions around the world, Braille is mostly the same for all languages that use the Latin alphabet (A-Z).

World Braille Day is celebrated every year on Louis Braille's Birthday!

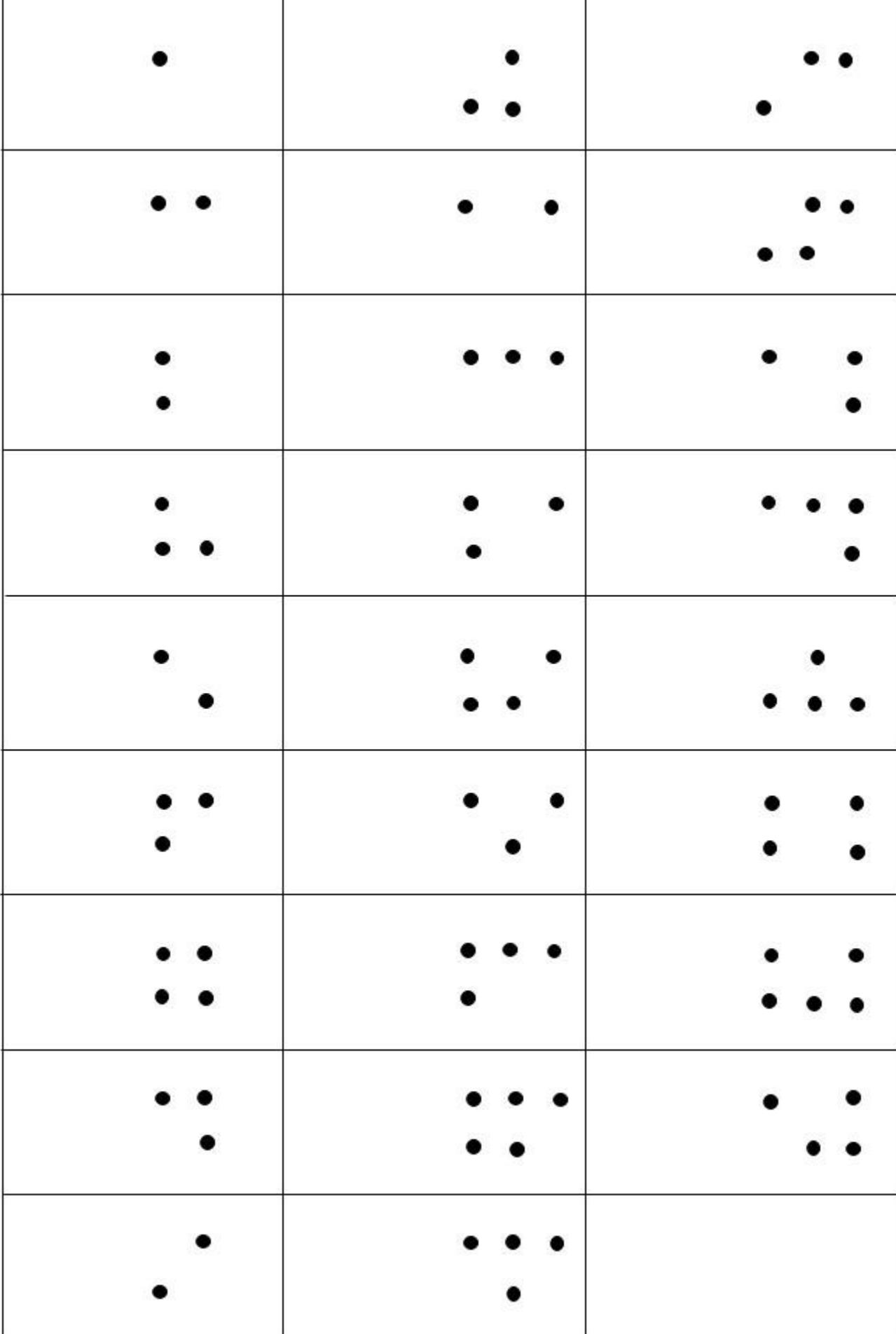
On the next page, use a pencil or paperclip to push on the Braille dots (printed in reverse so they will be correct when flipped over).



Print this template double-sided, **Braille Alphabet**  
flipping on the short edge.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
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Push on dots with a paper clip end or pencil.



# Inventors



Inventors are people who want to make life better or easier by creating new things. Here are some of the most famous inventors in history and their inventions. But they're all jumbled up. Work with a partner or group to connect them!

**Benjamin Franklin**

**Computer Program**

**The Wright Brothers**

**Bifocals**

**George Washington Carver**

**Airplane**

**Samuel Morse**

**Printing Press**

**Johannes Gutenberg**

**Telephone**

**Alexander Graham Bell**

**Peanut Products**

**Ada Lovelace**

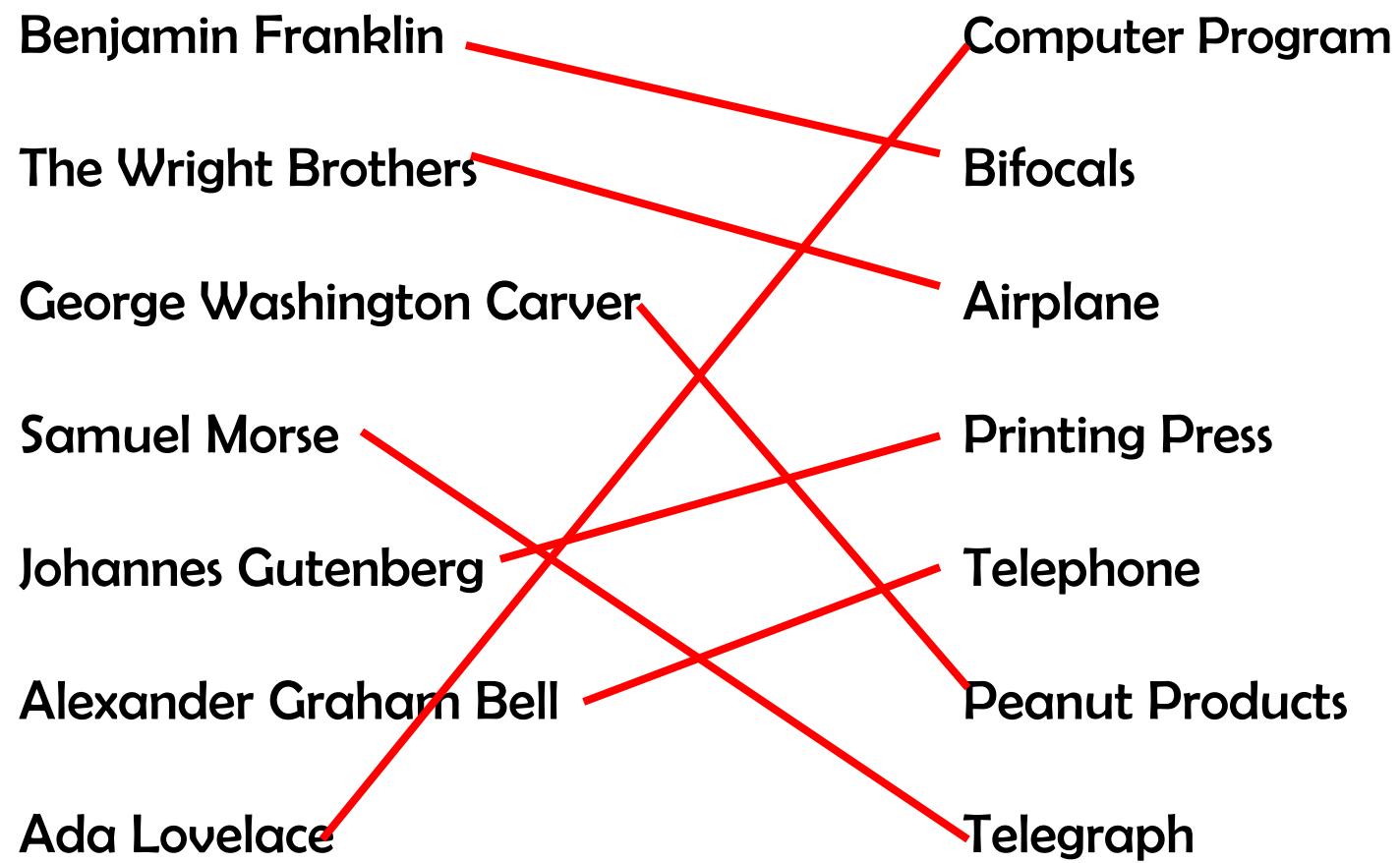
**Telegraph**

**Ask your teacher to help with any ones you don't know.  
Would you like to invent something? What would it do?**

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**On the back draw a picture of your invention.**



# The Wright Brothers

Today is the anniversary of the first flight in an airplane. On December 17, 1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright successfully became the first humans to fly. Of course, other people had come very close. They had glided and flown in balloons. But the Wright Brothers airplane was the first one to use a motor to control where it went.

How many times do you think you have flown in an airplane?

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Have you ever been in a hot air balloon? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever gone gliding? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the next innovation in travel will be?

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The Wright Brothers are often admired for their curiosity, determination, and innovation. Wilbur and Orville had five siblings. They moved a lot growing up because their father was a pastor and would get sent to different churches.

When they were young, their father brought home a toy that flies when wound up. That began their fascination with flight. If you were to invent something based on one of your toys, which one would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

Why didn't any of Wilbur and Orville's siblings help make the airplane? Because they were the Wrong Brothers!

On the back draw a picture of something you might invent.

# Native Americans

The first people to live in North America are known by many names. Together, they are often referred to as Native Americans. Although very different, they share a common bond of struggling to preserve their land and way of life as more and more Europeans began to move to North America, starting with Columbus in 1492. Today, Native Americans make up about 1% of the US population.

Many towns, mountains, rivers, valleys, and other locations have Native American names. Ask your teacher if there are any places around you that have Native American names:

Many modern American traditions and goods come from Native Americans. These include:

- Log cabins
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Lacrosse
- Tug-of-War
- Chewing gum
- Barbecues
- Hammocks

Circle the ones you enjoy.

Many common foods were unknown to Europeans before 1492. Native Americans had cultivated them for centuries. Which one is your favorite?

- Pumpkins
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Beans
- Chili peppers
- Maple syrup

Some of the most famous Native Americans are:

- Tisquantum (Squanto)
- Sacagawea
- Tecumseh
- Maria Tallchief
- Sitting Bull
- Geronimo
- Pocahontas
- Chief Joseph
- Crazy Horse
- Red Cloud
- Jim Thorpe
- Sequoyah

Find out which Native American group(s) lived in your area:

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## Custodians

Have you ever wondered where all the trash disappears to each night? Do you think it floats away? Custodians often clean at night, so we don't usually see them doing their jobs. It takes a lot of work to keep your school clean, and the custodians deserve a big thanks for it.

Imagine the trash was never emptied, the floors were never swept or vacuumed, and the bathrooms were never cleaned. What would it be like coming to school each day? Write a short story about it:

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So, what can you do?

- Write a letter thanking your custodian for all his or her hard work.
- Draw a picture for the custodian to say thank you.
- Write a note and draw a picture on the white board at the end of the day to say thank you.
- Leave a sticky note on your desk saying thank you.

## Translators

International Translation Day is a day to honor the work of translators around the world. A translator is a person who understands more than one language and helps people who only understand one of those languages, by changing it into the other one. How many languages do you speak?

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The holiday was created by the United Nations, which employs hundreds of translators, because they have people from almost every country on earth working there.

Would you like to work as a translator one day? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think might be fun about it? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think might be boring about it? \_\_\_\_\_

International Translation Day is celebrated on the feast day of Jerome, a man who translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to Latin in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is considered an inspiration to modern translators.

What language would you most like to learn?

What countries speak this language? \_\_\_\_\_

On the back write as many words as you can think of that are from other languages.

# The Constitution

What is the American Constitution? It is the supreme law of the United States. After America won its independence from Great Britain, it had to start a brand-new government from scratch. This wasn't easy. The Constitution begins with the words, "We the people," and lays out the framework for how the government will be set up and what the rights of the people are. The first ten amendments (or changes) to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

Imagine you had to start a whole school from scratch. What rights would students have?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What things would the school not be allowed to tell students to do or not do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What obligations would the students have to the school?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

On the back draw a picture of your new school.

# Ada Lovelace

Have you ever heard of Ada Lovelace? Maybe not, but you have probably used a machine she helped make useful. Ada Byron was born in England in 1815. Her father, Lord Byron, was one of the most famous English poets who has ever lived. After she married her husband, he was named the Earl of Lovelace, making her a Countess.

Ada studied mathematics and worked closely with one of the first inventors of computers. She was the first person to realize the machine could be used for more than just calculating numbers. She wrote what many consider to be the first computer program.

Which do you like more?

- Poetry
- Math
- Computer Science

The purpose of Ada Lovelace Day is to encourage women in STEM. When Ada lived, women were not encouraged to study these subjects. Which is your favorite part of STEM?

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Math

On the back draw a picture of a computer.

Imagine you get to choose the 51<sup>st</sup> state.



My state's name: \_\_\_\_\_

State Bird	State Flower:	State Tree:

My state's song: \_\_\_\_\_

My state's flag:



# Johnny Appleseed

John Chapman was born September 26, 1774 in Massachusetts. He traveled westward by foot as a Christian missionary, and planted apple seeds everywhere he stopped in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. This earned him the nickname Johnny Appleseed. He taught people how to take care of apple trees and wanted to see the new country filled with them. Apples are native to Europe, so America did not have apple trees naturally growing at that time. Apples were once used for bartering, and in some places a farmer needed an orchard to claim ownership of land. Thanks to Johnny Appleseed apples are now one of the most popular fruits in America.

What is your favorite type of apple?

- Red
- Golden
- Green
- Gala
- Honeycrisp
- Fuji
- Roma
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite apple treat?

- Apple pie
- Caramel apple
- Dried apple
- Apple turnover
- Apple fritter
- Apple crumble
- Hot apple cider
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

On the back draw a picture of an apple tree.

# Firefighters



Do you think you are brave? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the bravest person you know? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know any firefighters? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you met firefighters on a field trip or other event?  
When? \_\_\_\_\_

Many firefighters begin as volunteers. Volunteers might help at the station or represent it at a community event.  
Have you ever volunteered at a community event?

What was it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers who have special emergency training may go on ride-alongs with the firefighters.

Have you ever been inside a fire truck?

When and where was it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lastly, to become a firefighter, a person must get a degree in fire science and take entrance exams.

Do you think being a firefighter sounds scary? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think being a firefighter sounds exciting? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

On the back, draw a picture of a firefighter being brave.

# The Great Encounter

October 12, 1492 was one of the most important dates in history. It was the date of the Great Encounter. What do you think the word “great” means? \_\_\_\_\_

In history, the word “great” has a different meaning from how we use it in everyday life. It means “big” or “life-changing.” Many “greats” in history weren’t very good, like the Great Depression or the Great Fire. Have you ever heard the word “great” used like this for something else?

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The Great Encounter was when two halves of the world met for the first time in modern history. Europe, Asia, and Africa are part of the Eastern Hemisphere. North and South America are part of the Western Hemisphere. For most of history, the two halves did not know about each other. But then, in Fourteen Hundred and Ninety-Two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He took the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. He sailed from Spain in search of a path to Asia.

Over the next several hundred years products and culture from each side of the globe began to spread to the other.

Color the good things green and the bad things red.

## Western Hemisphere

Potatoes →

Tomatoes →

Chocolate →

Avocados →

Pumpkin →

Corn →

Maple Syrup →

New Diseases →

## Eastern Hemisphere

← Bananas

← Oranges

← Lemons

← Grapes

← Horses

← Cows

← Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

← New Diseases

# Purple Hearts

The Purple Heart is a medal given to American soldiers who have been injured or died in battle. It shows great courage.

What is the most courageous thing you have ever done or seen?

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The Purple Heart was established by George Washington in 1782. It was originally called the Badge of Military Merit and was only given to three soldiers.

Look up the word “merit” in the dictionary and copy its meaning here:

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The badge was forgotten until after World War I. Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur led a group that created the modern Purple Heart for the two-hundredth anniversary of George Washington’s birth on February 22, 1932.

Why do you think Americans were celebrating the two-hundredth anniversary of George Washington’s birth? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you think of any other American whose birthday is celebrated each year? \_\_\_\_\_

Nearly two million Purple Hearts have been awarded to soldiers (or their families if they were killed in action) since World War II.

On the back, choose a color and shape combination to create your own Badge of Merit for any kind of deed.

# Human Rights

The United Nations made a proclamation in 1948. This proclamation is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is meant to give a list of the rights that every human being on the planet ought to have. Documents from the past that have a common theme are the American Bill of Rights, ratified in 1791, and the Magna Carta written in 1215AD.

Some examples of human rights are the right to be free, the right to express your opinion, and the right to vote.

## What rights do you believe all humans ought to have?

**On the back draw the human right you think is most important.**

# Days of the Week

Wait! But why is it called Thursday? And why are any of the days called what they are?

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman Emperor Constantine named the seven days of the week after the sun, moon, and the planets they were able to see. The Romans believed in many gods and named the planets after them. But in English the planets were given the names of gods from the myths of Northern Europe.

- ❖ Sunday is Sun Day.
- ❖ Monday is Moon Day.
- ❖ Tuesday is Tiu's Day (Mars to the Romans)
- ❖ Wednesday is Odin's Day (Mercury to the Romans)
- ❖ Thursday is Thor's Day (Jupiter to the Romans)
- ❖ Friday is Freyja's Day (Venus to the Romans)
- ❖ Saturday is Saturn's Day

Which names do you like better, the Roman or English ones?

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If you were in charge of naming each day of the week, what names would you give them?

Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_

Monday: \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday: \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_

On the back create a calendar with your new day names.

# The Bill of Rights

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They were ratified (meaning agreed on) on December 15, 1791. Even though we celebrate 1776 as America's birthday, it took several years to gain independence and for the American government to form.

## Timeline

- 1774: First Continental Congress forms in response to the Intolerable Acts
- 1775: The Revolutionary War begins and the Second Continental Congress forms
- 1776: The Second Continental Congress signs the Declaration of Independence
- 1781: The Second Continental Congress writes the Articles of the Confederation
- 1783: The war ends and America is officially independent
- 1789: George Washington is inaugurated as the first president
- 1787-1790: The Constitution is slowly ratified by the new states
- 1791: The Bill of Rights are ratified

## The Bill of Rights

1<sup>st</sup>: Freedom of speech, religion, & the press

2<sup>nd</sup>: Right to bear arms

3<sup>rd</sup>: Citizens don't have to let soldiers live in their homes

4<sup>th</sup>: Your home can't be searched without a reason

5<sup>th</sup>: Right to a fair trial by your peers

6<sup>th</sup>: Rights if you are charged with a crime

7<sup>th</sup>: Rights in a civil case

8<sup>th</sup>: Punishments must be reasonable

9<sup>th</sup>: Americans have other rights not listed

10<sup>th</sup>: The states can make laws, too

On the back  
draw a  
picture of  
your favorite  
amendment.

# The        Amendment



By: \_\_\_\_\_

# What it Says:

## Why It's Important to Me:

## My Drawing:

# The Mail Service



Do you enjoy getting things addressed to you in the mail? Certainly, birthday cards and gifts are everyone's favorites. What else comes in the mail?

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Mail carriers work hard every day to bring letters and packages to our mailboxes. Here are some fun facts about the postal service:

- ❖ Colonial postal service began in 1692.
- ❖ Benjamin Franklin became the first postmaster of the United States Postal Service in 1775.
- ❖ The Pony Express was a famous network of express mail carriers in the Old West. But it actually only lasted for a year and a half.

The Old New York City Post Office has engraved words above its entrance:

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

Many people think this is the post office's official motto, but it actually doesn't have one. The quote comes from a poem about ancient Persian letter carriers. Just the same, mail carriers have to put up with a lot of bad weather.

So, make a thank-you card for a mail carrier today! You can use the following template.

Thomas Jefferson is one of the most famous people in American history. Why? Because he:

- Wrote most of the Declaration of Independence
- Was a member of the Continental Congress
- Served as America's first secretary of state
- Served as America's third president
- Doubled the size of America when he bought the Louisiana Territory from France

Thomas Jefferson was born in the colony of Virginia. He loved science, history, and literature. He grew up to become a lawyer and to serve in local government. Jefferson had strong feelings about democracy, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech.

The most difficult thing to understand about Thomas Jefferson is that he wrote that, "All men are created equal," but owned slaves. Jefferson often expressed a desire to see slavery end, but did not choose to take the first step to make that happen himself.

Have you ever felt something was wrong, but kept doing it?

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What is something you believe should change to make the world a better place? \_\_\_\_\_

What steps could you take, now or as an adult, to make that happen? \_\_\_\_\_

On the back, draw a picture of yourself making this change.

Do you know what ASL is? It stands for American Sign Language. Sign language is not a universal language. Many signs are connected to the culture and language in different parts of the world.

April 15<sup>th</sup> celebrates the opening of the first school for deaf children in America in 1816. Unfortunately, for much of history, hearing people assumed that deaf people were not able to learn language. Although families with deaf children and other groups had always found ways to communicate with hand motions, it was not until the 1700s that more a more formal sign language was created in Paris, France. Some famous deaf people include Beethoven, Thomas Edison, and Helen Keller.

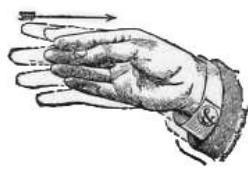
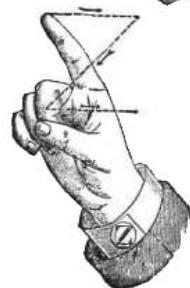
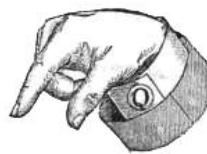
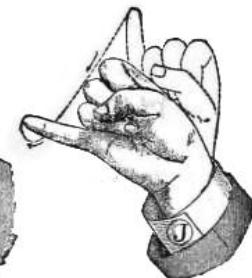
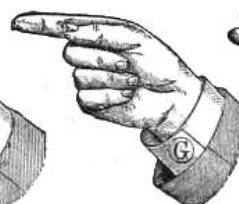
Do you know how to say I Love You in ASL? \_\_\_\_\_

What about the alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_

Sign language is not just for those who are deaf or have deaf family members. Everyone can benefit by learning sign language. Ask an adult at home to help you get a library book of ASL, or to show you videos of ASL lessons.

When deaf people need to communicate with people who do not know sign language, they may read the person's lips. But this is difficult because so many words look the same on the lips. Always let the person tell you how they wish for you to communicate. If they read your lips, be sure to face them and not put your hand in front of your face.

On the back, color and practice the ASL alphabet.



Ellis Island was the main way for immigrants to come to America from 1892 to 1924. Ellis Island is a small island in the Hudson Harbor, between New York City and New Jersey. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Ellis Island did something that was very exciting. It made all of its records available online. Now people who want to learn about their family history don't have to travel all the way there to do so.

Do you know how your ancestors (or you) came to this country? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know what country or countries your ancestors came from? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know when they came? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know why they came? \_\_\_\_\_

Take this page home to interview your family about your history. Maybe some of your ancestors came through Ellis Island. If they did, you can ask an adult to help you look for records on the Ellis Island website.

Use the chart on the back to help you see how long your family has been here. Highlight each box that is the first person to immigrate here.

Me	Father	Grandfather	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
Mother	Grandfather	Great-Grandfather	Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
Great-Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother

Do you know what a First Lady is? She is the wife of a president. The husband of a president would be called a First Gentleman. Here are some fun facts about the first ladies:

- ❖ Martha Washington was the first First Lady
- ❖ Abigail Adams and Martha Bush are the only First Ladies to also be mothers of presidents
- ❖ Eleanor Roosevelt is often considered the first modern first lady.
- ❖ Lady Bird Johnson was the only First Lady named Lady.
- ❖ Hillary Clinton was the only First Lady to later run for president.
- ❖ Jacqueline Kennedy is the only First Lady to win an Emmy.
- ❖ Rose Cleveland was the only First Lady who wasn't married to the president. She served as her brother's First Lady until he got married, while in office.

Imagine one of the First Ladies were in this room. What question would you want to ask her? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you could talk to a First Lady from the past, what would you want her to know about our own time? \_\_\_\_\_

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On the back, draw yourself talking to a First Lady.

# Paul Bunyan



Have you ever heard stories of Paul Bunyan? \_\_\_\_\_

When European Americans began moving further west, they had a goal of clearing large forests to create more farmland. This would allow them to feed more people, with less work. These men were called lumberjacks. They led difficult and lonely lives, far from their families. To help pass the time and lift their spirits, they would tell tall tales: make-believe stories that have exaggerated features.

Tall tales about Paul Bunyan, an imaginary, and very over-sized folk hero, claimed that just wandering around

America, his footsteps and ax formed:

- ❖ The Great Lakes                   ❖ The Grand Canyon
- ❖ The Finger Lakes                   ❖ Niagara Falls
- ❖ The Mississippi River              ❖ The Missouri River

Think about a famous natural feature (Old Faithful geyser, the Hawaiian Islands, the Florida peninsula). Imagine Paul Bunyan created it. Tell how he did it:

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On the back, draw a picture of your story.