

The Words in the Preamble and What They Mean . . .

PREAMBLE: The first part of something, an introduction.

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES: All the people in our country, including kids.

IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION: To come together and make things better for everyone who lives in our country.

ESTABLISH JUSTICE: To make things fair and honest for everyone.

INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY: To make sure we can all have a nice life and get along with one another.

PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE: To protect us from other people or countries who might try to harm us, as in a war, and to help us if we have been harmed.

PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE: To help make life good for everybody. Having enough to eat, a place to live, being safe, and having friends and fun times are some of the things that make our lives good.

AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY: To protect our rights and freedoms and not let anyone take them away. Being able to choose our religion, to say what we think, and to get together with friends, family, and other people are some of the freedoms we have.

TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY: For kids, parents, other grown-ups, and all the people born in our country after we are.

DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION: To write down, and then to live by, a list of rules and promises for our government to keep and our people to obey.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Our country—where we live.