

BENCHMARK SS.7.C.1.6

Strand	C Civics and Government
Reporting Category	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government
Standard	Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
Benchmark	SS.7.C.1.6 Interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution.
Benchmark Clarifications	<p>Students will explain how the Preamble serves as an introduction to the U.S. Constitution, establishing the goals and purposes of government.</p> <p>Students will identify the goals and purposes of government as set forth in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution (i.e., form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity).</p> <p>Students will recognize that the intention of the phrase “We the People” means that government depends on the people for its power and exists to serve them.</p>
Content Limit	Items will be limited to addressing the intent of the Preamble, rather than interpretations throughout other periods in history.
Stimulus Attribute	Items addressing the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution may use historical and contemporary documents and other relevant stimuli (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, graphs, tables).
Content Focus	These terms are given in addition to those found in the standards, benchmarks, and benchmark clarifications. Additional items may include, but are not limited to, the following: ordain.

Sample Item 6 **SS.7.C.1.6** **Content Focus** We the People

In the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, what is the meaning of the phrase “We the People”?

- A. The people express their will through political parties.
- B. The people express their will by directly creating laws.
- C. Government receives taxes from the people and exists to support them.
- ★ D. Government receives its power from the people and exists to serve them.