

## BENCHMARK SS.7.C.1.6

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Strand</b>                   | C Civics and Government   |
| <b>Reporting Category</b>       | Origins and Purposes of Law and Government  |
| <b>Standard</b>                 | Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.   |
| <b>Benchmark</b>                | <b>SS.7.C.1.6 Interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution.</b>   |
| <b>Benchmark Clarifications</b> | <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> |
| <b>Content Limit</b>            | Items will be limited to addressing the intent of the Preamble, rather than interpretations throughout other periods in history.  |
| <b>Stimulus Attribute</b>       | 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).  |
| <b>Content Focus</b>            | 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.