CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY

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.

Preamble of the US Constitution

The United States of America is one of the oldest democracies in the world. Its Constitution was written in the 18th century. The Constitution of the US has been used as a role model for many other countries around the world. The Supreme Court frequently interprets the Constitution according to needs of the ever-changing social, political and economic conditions of the United States. However, the basic doctrine of the Constitution remains untouched and unchallenged since its inception.

Interesting Facts about the US Constitution

James Madison is considered to be the Father of the US Constitution because he was the main person in preparing the document. However, there were around 55 people including Thomas Jefferson and John Adams who helped Madison with the task of authoring and compiling the Constitution of the United States. These people were known as the Founding Fathers of the US Constitution.

The Constitution was written in Pennsylvania State House, now known as the Independence Hall. Initially, the United States consisted of only 13 states. Out of which only 12 states participated in writing the US Constitution. The US Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. In 1788, it was ratified by nine of the thirteen states. In 1790, Rhode Island was the last state to ratify the document.

The total word count of the US Constitution is 4,440 and it is the shortest constitution of any country in the world.

Pennsylvania was misspelt as Pensylvania and it is one of the typographical errors in the documents of the US Constitution.

Do you know the youngest person to sign the US Constitution was only 26 years of age and the oldest was 81 years old? They were Jonathan Dayton and Benjamin Franklin respectively.

Though Thomas Jefferson was instrumental in drafting the Declaration of Independence, he could not sign the US Constitution because he was in France serving as the US minister to France. John Adams, who later became the second President of the United States, also could not sign the Constitution because he was serving as the US minister to Great Britain.

Do you know that it took 100 days to frame the Constitution? At the time of the Convention of the Constitution, the population of America was only four million and currently it is more than three hundred million.

The structure of the American Constitution has an introduction called the Preamble. The contents of the constitution are divided into seven parts known as the Articles. The first Article gives power to the House of Representative and the Senate to make and introduce laws. The President of the US is given the executive powers and this is mentioned in the second Article. The Supreme Court of the US is the final court of appeal according to the rights listed in the third Article.

The list of rights was added to the US Constitution in 1791 and the first ten amendments are known as the The Bill of Rights. As of today, more than eleven thousand amendments have been introduced in the House of Representatives. Around thirty-three were sent to the states for ratification and twenty-seven were approved by the states to be considered as the amendments.

Today, the original Constitution of America is exhibited at the National Archives in Washington D.C.

More information about U.S. Constitution history can be found on the Library of Congress website.