Sept. 17 is Constitution Day. It was on that day that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in 1787. The delegates will celebrate with a whole week of activities. The Mini Page gets started with a “spellbinding” tribute.

C is for Constitution. It is a set of basic laws, organizing, granting and limiting the powers of our government. It is something we all share.

T is for Twentieth. The total number of amendments to the Constitution.

U is for United States. In the words of the Preamble: “We, the People of the United States, in order to 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, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

I is for Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the delegates met to write the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

S is for Signers. Thirty-nine delegates signed. Fifty-five delegates attended.

O is for Our. The Constitution is on display at this building in Washington, D.C.

G is for George. Mason, did not sign. Fifty-five delegates attended. The Mini Page gets started with a “spellbinding” tribute.

F is for Frankfort. The capital of Kentucky.

N is for New Hampshire, the ninth state to ratify, or approve, the Constitution.


M is for Madison, James. Credited with writing most of the Constitution.

R is for Rights. They are: First: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly and petition. Second: Guarantees the right to own and carry weapons. Third: Limits government from forcing citizens to keep soldiers in their homes. Fourth: Limits searches and seizures. Fifth: Limits the president's terms. Sixth: Grants further rights for those accused of a crime, such as a speedy trial and a fair jury. Seventh: Grants rights for people involved in civil cases (disagreements between two people or people and their government). Eighth: Protects people from unreasonable fines or cruel punishment for crimes. Ninth: Entitles citizens to rights not listed in the Constitution. Tenth: Says that powers not given to the U.S. government by the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people.

On the Web:
   - “What Is the Constitution?” by Patricia Demuth
   - “A Kid’s Guide to America’s Bill of Rights” by Kathleen Krull

For later:
   - Visit the National Archives: bit.ly/MPstandards.
   - And follow The Mini Page on Facebook.

Try ‘n’ Find
Words that remind us of the Constitution are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AMENDMENTS, ARTICLES, BILL, BRANCHES, CONSTITUTION, EXECUTIVE, GOVERNMENT, IDEAS, INDEPENDENCE, JUDICIAL, LAWS, LEGISLATIVE, MADISON, PREAMBLE, RATIFY, RIGHTS, SIGNERS, STATE.

Cook’s Corner
Tuna Salad on Whole-Grain Crackers
You need:
   • 1 (6-ounce) packet light tuna in water
   • 1 tablespoon light mayonnaise
   • 1 tablespoon finely diced celery
   • 1 tablespoon finely diced roasted red peppers
What to do:
   1. In a small bowl, combine tuna and mayonnaise and mix well.
   2. Fold in celery and red peppers. Season with salt and pepper.
   3. Serve tuna salad on crackers, or refrigerate tuna until ready to serve.

Tuna Salad on Whole-Grain Crackers
You need:
   • Salt and ground black pepper
   • 6 whole-grain crackers

Punctuation
   • An exclamation mark can draw attention.
   • A question mark can pose a question.
   • A colon can introduce a list.

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Mini Jokes
James: What should you do when an elephant stubs his toe?
Ben: Call a toe truck!

Eco Note
Do you ever notice an air quality index (AQI) on a weather report? Sometimes the air can be dirty, but you can’t see it or smell it. So you need another way to tell if the air is dirty. The AQI uses colors to tell us how clean the air is. Green is clean; maroon is very dirty. We see a lot of yellow, orange and red AQI colors in the summer when air quality often isn’t at its best. You can find the AQI for your state or city at airnow.gov.

For later:
Look in your newspaper for articles about Constitution Day.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit bit.ly/2Wqjstds. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!