

Tennessee Studies Weekly™

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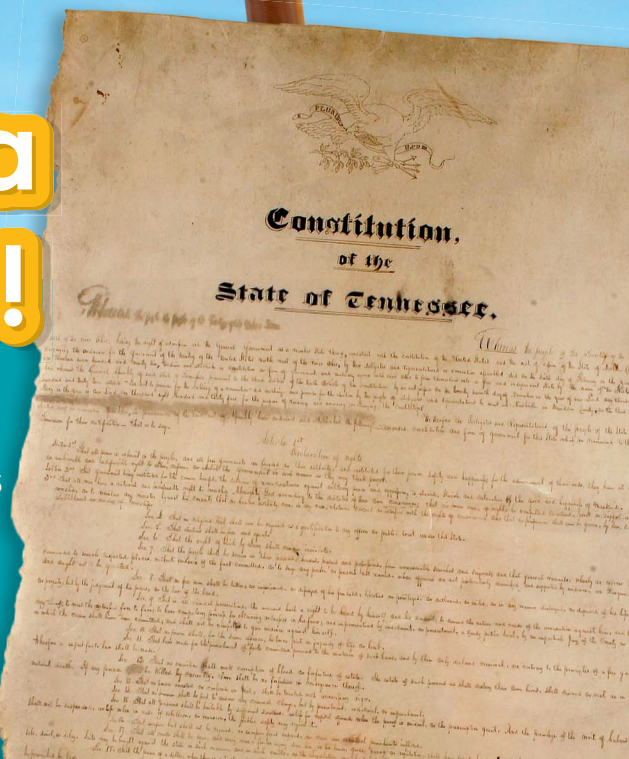
LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

GRADE
2



Tennessee Has a Constitution, Too!

Rev loves the monkey bars. He can climb all the way across by himself. While crossing the monkey bars, he hears his teacher tell one of his friends that Tennessee has its own constitution. "These are rules that everyone who lives in this state has to follow," Ms. Johnson says. Rev races over to her. He's ready to learn more about this!



Tennessee Has a Constitution, Too!

State Constitutions

States have their own constitution. This means that each state makes its own rules. Let's use a playground as an example. Pretend that each part of the playground is a state. The states are Swings, Slides, Monkey Bars, Sand Box, Ball and Jump Rope. Each one of you can represent one state. You will get to make rules for the people who come to your state. But remember, your rules must be fair.



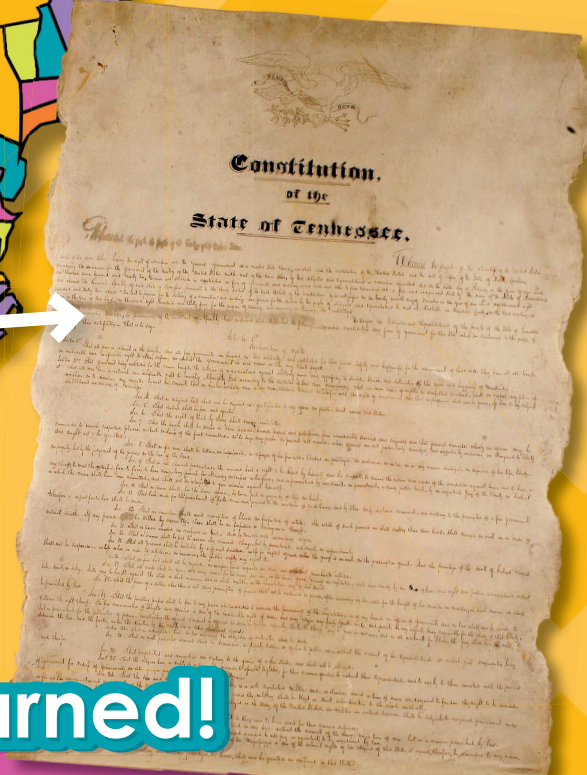
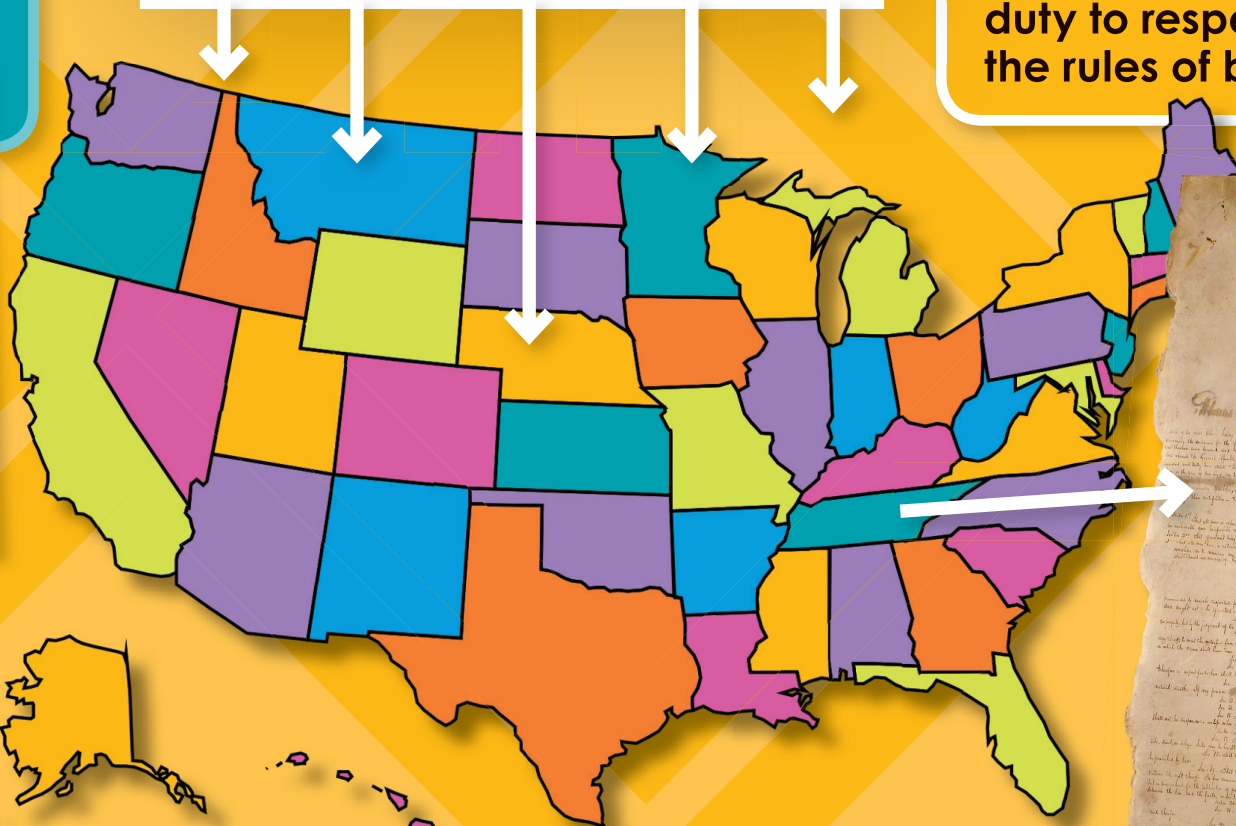
How does it work?

All 50 states have a state constitution. This document tells people what they can and cannot do in the state. It is long with many rules. These rules cannot go against what the U.S. Constitution says. It works hand in hand with it.



We Are Protected

Every state can have its own rules. The rules are made by the state's legislative power. However, these rules cannot go against the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution is the highest law of our country. As citizens, we are protected by both. It's our duty to respect and follow the rules of both.



Share What You've Learned!

Did you have fun learning from the playground example? Making rules for your own state is fun. You learned why every state needs its own constitution. The state laws rule over each state to make sure everything goes well. No one got hurt on the monkey bars, and everyone took turns. Now you can share what you've learned with your family and friends.

Name _____

Word Search

Find these 5 words in the puzzle below:

- Rules
- Law
- State
- Free
- Rights

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| R | P | U | J | F | R | K | J | C | W | N | Q | K | E | Z |
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| A | J | N | P | A | J | Z | F | P | Q | I | V | E | E | Z |
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Let's Draw

Rev was over Monkey Bar State. If you were in his class, draw the playground state you wish Ms. Johnson would put you over. What is one rule for your playground state?