**The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution**

**Directions: Examine the preamble to the United States Constitution as seen below. Define the vocabulary by placing a definition related to what you think the word means in the space provided. Then in the next section, with a partner, try and come up with some understanding of what each phrase means in the preamble. Why were the phrases so important?**

“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.”

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| 1. union |  | 6. defense |  |
| 2. justice |  | 7. welfare |  |
| 3. insure |  | 8. posterity |  |
| 4. domestic |  | 9. ordain |  |
| 5. tranquility |  |  |  |

1. What do you think a constitution is? (Look up the definition of the word if you do not know what it is. Place it in the space below.
2. What does the phrase “**We the People of the United States**” mean? Why do you feel that it was necessary for this phrase to start off the beginning of the constitution? Who do you think “The People” referred too? Did it include “everyone” or just some people? Explain in a few sentences below.
3. What do you think the phrase “**In order to form a more perfect union**” means? Do you think that this phrase means that the country is or was “perfect” when it was created” or were the people of that time wanting the new country to be more perfect or better than what they might have had before the American colonies became independent? What do you think? Discuss with a partner next you and explain in a few sentences below.
4. What do you think the phrase “**establish justice**” means? Why do you think it was necessary to have this phrase placed in the preamble or the beginning of the constitution?
5. What does the phrase “**insure domestic tranquility**” mean? What do you think the founders of the constitution meant by placing this phrase at the beginning of the constitution?
6. What do you think the phrase “**promote the general welfare**” means? Why do you think it was important to the founders of the constitution to put this phrase in the preamble?
7. The next phrase “**secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity**” is one of the more difficult phrases to understand. Look up the term “posterity” and try and explain in a few sentences what you think the founders of the constitution were trying to say?
8. Lastly, what does the phrase “**do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America**” mean? Explain in a few sentences below.