

Exploring September Civics

<http://www.mrsoshouse.com/ext/septsoc.html>

Directions: Use the links provided to find the answers to the questions. Use the Go menu to jump past several pages just viewed to return to the activity's web page.

1. In September, the United States recognizes Labor Day as a federal holiday.

When was Labor Day declared a national holiday? _____

Who does the holiday honor? _____

2. On September 2, 1789, the U. S. Treasury Department was established. What do they do?

List three of the Treasury's jobs or departments. _____

3. On September 1, 1752, an icon of liberty arrived in Philadelphia by ship. What was it?

4. On September 17, 1787, delegates from 12 states signed the newly drafted U. S. Constitution. Which state was not represented at the Constitutional Convention? Why?

When the Federal government passes a law, it applies to all the states. The date it takes effect is written into the law. This was not the case for the U. S. Constitution. What was the process by which it became the law of the land?

5. What does the word constitution mean? _____

6. On September 22, 1776, Revolutionary War hero, Nathan Hale was hanged by the British as a spy. What is he famous for saying just before he died?

What was his occupation? _____

7. Your teacher announces your class will be going on a field trip to see the state capitol. Name your state's capital.

8. A homonym is a word that has the same pronunciation as another word, but a different meaning. In the last question, capitol and capital are an example of a homonym.

Use Google's define feature to write the definition for each word as it was used in question 8. Go to Google's search engine page. Enter define:capital. Repeat with capitol.

A capital is _____

A capitol is _____

9. The Legislative branch of the federal government is bicameral. What does this mean?

Describe the number of the legislative branches in your state's government. _____

If you read that a state had a tricameral legislature, how many legislative bodies would it have?

10. On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote the lyrics to a song. I am confident you have heard it and probably even sung it. Name the song.

Calculated to challenge

How many decades has the song, in the question 10, been the USA's official national anthem?

11. *E Pluribus Unum* appears on the Great Seal of the United States. What does it mean?

12. Gouverneur Morris, a Pennsylvania delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, wrote the final draft of the U.S. Constitution. He penned a famous phrase in the Preamble. What words, that he wrote, have echoed throughout the centuries?

“In all our associations; in all our agreements let us never lose sight of this fundamental maxim - that all power was originally lodged in, and consequently is derived from, the people.” George Mason

Extras:

You have been selected to give a speech at the local VFW Post. You want to open with a quote. Select your favorite quote about bravery. Write it here, include the author's name!

Use a search engine like Google or Yahoo or harness the Internet Public Library's resources to find out one fact about the person.

Find a few facts about a Founding Father who served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

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