Constitution Day Scavenger Hunt

The Constitution of the United States was signed on September 17, 1787. To commemorate this momentous occasion we are going to interrupt our regularly scheduled program to give you a brief overview of the Constitution. The Constitution is a document which outlines the rules and procedures under which our federal government operates, and, together with the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, enumerates the rights, privileges, and immunities we enjoy as citizens.

Assignment: Read the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (pages 150-177) and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1. What are the five goals for the Constitution outlined in the Preamble? Give an example of how the government accomplishes one of these goals.
- 2. What determines the number of Representatives each state is allowed?
- 3. What are the qualifications for being a Senator, and how long do they serve?
- 4. Who is the president of the Senate, and what role does she play in making laws?
- 5. What types of proceedings may be excluded from the Congressional Record?
- 6. Under what circumstances can Senators or Representatives be arrested? Why might they be immune from arrest in other cases?
- 7. Describe how a bill becomes a law.
- 8. Which three powers of Congress do you feel are most important? Explain.
- 9. What are *bills of attainder* and *ex post facto laws*, and why is the federal government forbidden to issue them?
- 10. How many electors are there in the Electoral College?
- 11. What qualifications must a citizen meet in order to qualify to be President?
- 12. How does the Constitution define treason?
- 13. How may the Constitution be amended?
- 14. What happens if a state law conflicts with the Constitution?