



# Constitution Through History

## Social Studies

NETA

5 20-minute programs for grades 4-9

Year to Year Tape and Keep Rights

No Duplication Rights

THE CONSTITUTION THROUGH HISTORY is a series of 5 programs which use historical and present day character portrayals to share the important role that our Constitution has played and continues to play in shaping our nation. As stated in the Curriculum Standards for Social Studies from the National Council for The Social Studies' Executive Summary, "Thomas Jefferson, among others, emphasized that the vitality of a democracy depends upon the education and participation of its citizens." The primary purpose of the study of social studies is to assist young people in developing the ability to make informed decisions as citizens. Betsy Ross discusses the design of the flag with General Washington. The unique, yet controversial friendship between Jefferson and Adams is revealed while discussing the Declaration of Independence. Harriet Tubman, Patrick Henry, Ben Franklin, Susan B. Anthony, and others, from Francis Scott Key to a Gulf War soldier, are portrayed, sharing the values of liberty and freedom granted by our Constitution.

**1. A New Beginning** - The first program begins with a poignant discussion between the series "host" Betsy Ross and General Washington concerning the design of our nation's flag. Charles Pinckney, delegate to the Continental Congress, gives a moving story about the shot heard around the world. Then, after meeting a gulf war soldier from 1991, another delegate to the Continental Congress, Thomas Jefferson, speaks passionately about the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson's enemy - turned-friend John Adams ends with solemn words about the great union that was forged.

**Social Studies: 2.11, 3.11, VS.5, USI.6, USI.7, CE.2, VUS.5**

**2. Voices of America** - Betsy Ross introduces the second program that talks about the developing union of thirteen colonies. Patrick Henry is a loud voice in support of the revolutionary cause. Then in contrast we meet Benedict Arnold, once trusted, but now a voice not listened to by either side. A strong voice to match her strong body, Deborah Samson, disguised as a boy, speaks of fighting as a patriot. After hearing

two other vibrant voices, Franklin's and Adams', we turn to another strong woman, Susan B. Anthony. Several others voices speak loud for liberty. Then we meet Francis Scott Key, and our country has a song for its voice!

**Social Studies: VS.5, USI.6, CE.2**

**3. Separate but Equal** - In the third program, Betsy Ross introduces us to General Francis Marion, who was a spirited leader in the fight for our freedom. Harriet Tubman relates issues of freedom that have divided our country while Martha Washington talks about what our nation was to become. From James Madison to Davy Crockett, Paul Revere, and a modern-day Texas Ranger, we learn about the Constitution and the reasons to defend it. The program shows that democracy is just a word, but what power there is behind it!

**Social Studies: 2.11, 2.12, USI.5, USI.9, CE.2**

**4. Freedom and Equality** - Embracing freedom was not easy explains Betsy Ross in the fourth program. We meet Lafayette and also

hear from able Abe and Martin Luther King. From the civil war to the roots of the American dream, our rights and freedoms are discussed. Judge Thurgood Marshall defines what amendments are and from everyone, we learn that as a nation of liberty we have certain rights guaranteed by law.

**Social Studies: 2.12, USI.10, CE.2**

**5. Pioneer Spirit** - Betsy Ross praises our pioneer spirit as our nation is settled from sea to sea. James Monroe talks about how our nation grew not only in spirit, but also in size. We hear from Nathan Hale and Abigail Adams as well as a pioneer woman and a gold rush miner about the determination of our people to form the fifty states and grow our unified nation.

**Social Studies: USI.8, USII.3, CE.2**