People and Guidance

Read the opening to Oklahoma's plan for government.

3.C.1.1.E "Read and explain how the Preamble to the Oklahoma Constitution reflects the power of the people and their reliance on spiritual guidance."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that show the people's power to establish the Constitution. Circle the words that show they seek spiritual guidance.

Who Makes the Plan?

1. A new school needs rules for how it will work. A state needs a plan, too. Oklahoma's Constitution is a plan for its government. The Preamble is the short opening to that plan. It tells why the plan was made and who put it in place. As you read its words, look for the people who act and the guidance they seek.

2. The Preamble says, "we, the people of the State of Oklahoma," and later says the people "do ordain and establish this Constitution." Here, ordain and establish means to make it official. The people are named as the ones who put the plan in place. This shows that the people have the power to start their state's government, rather than a king making the plan for them.

3. The Preamble begins, "Invoking the guidance of Almighty God." Invoking means calling on or asking for help. These words show that the people who wrote the Preamble looked to God for guidance as they formed their government. They also hoped to protect liberty, or freedom, and make a fair government. The Preamble joins two ideas: people have the power to form the government, and they seek spiritual guidance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which words in the Preamble name who has the power to put the Constitution in place? What do they mean?

2. How does "do ordain and establish this Constitution" show the people's power?

3. Which words show that the writers sought spiritual guidance? What do those words mean?

4. Why would it be wrong to say that the Preamble gives God the job of putting the Constitution in place?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class writes rules and asks a trusted adult for advice. Write three sentences comparing your class to the Preamble: tell who makes each plan, who gives guidance, and why the helper does not make the rules. Include a short quote from the Preamble.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.1.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show the people's power to establish the Constitution. Circle the words that show they seek spiritual guidance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words in the Preamble name who has the power to put the Constitution in place? What do they mean?	**"We, the people of the State of Oklahoma" names the people as the ones with that power.**
2	How does "do ordain and establish this Constitution" show the people's power?	**It says the people make the Constitution official as their plan for government.**
3	Which words show that the writers sought spiritual guidance? What do those words mean?	**"Invoking the guidance of Almighty God" means they called on God for guidance.**
4	Why would it be wrong to say that the Preamble gives God the job of putting the Constitution in place?	**The Preamble says the people establish the Constitution. They seek God's guidance, but it does not say God establishes it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class makes its rules even when a trusted adult gives advice. In the Preamble, "we, the people of the State of Oklahoma" make the plan for the state, while the people seek God's guidance. A helper can guide people without taking their power to make the plan.

Accept answers that distinguish the people's power to establish the Constitution from their reliance on God for guidance. For Part 3, look for three sentences, a short Preamble quote, and a clear comparison.