Goals for Government

Read the Preamble to find six purposes of government.

5.C.6.1.A "Examine the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America and identify the major purposes of government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the six phrases in the Preamble that name goals for the government, then number them 1 through 6.

Why Begin with a Preamble?

1. Imagine that people from several states must agree on rules for a new country. They need a plan for solving problems together, protecting people, and keeping freedom safe. The United States Constitution begins with a short introduction called the Preamble. It tells why the people set up the government. Its words name goals, not a list of laws or government offices.

2. Read the Preamble as written in the Constitution: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, 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."

3. The Preamble uses a few broad phrases instead of giving detailed instructions. Look closely at words such as "common," "general," and "our" to decide who each goal is meant to help. The last part says the people establish the Constitution, so these goals help explain the plan that follows. A goal may guide many different decisions a government makes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which words in the Preamble show that the government should help the states work together?

2. Which words point to the goal of fair treatment under laws?

3. Which two phrases name goals about safety, one within the country and one against outside threats?

4. Which phrase addresses people's well-being, and which phrase includes freedom for future generations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is planning a new public park. In three sentences, explain how two different goals named in the Preamble could guide decisions about the park. Name each goal and give a different town action for each one.

ANSWER KEY

Goals for Government

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the six phrases in the Preamble that name goals for the government, then number them 1 through 6. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words in the Preamble show that the government should help the states work together?	**"form a more perfect Union"**
2	Which words point to the goal of fair treatment under laws?	**"establish Justice"**
3	Which two phrases name goals about safety, one within the country and one against outside threats?	**"insure domestic Tranquility" names peace within the country. "provide for the common defence" names protection against outside threats.**
4	Which phrase addresses people's well-being, and which phrase includes freedom for future generations?	**"promote the general Welfare" addresses well-being. "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity" includes freedom for future generations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To promote the general Welfare, the town could make the park open to all neighbors. To establish Justice, it could use the same park rules for everyone. These choices would help the park serve the whole town fairly.

For the marking job, accept the six goal phrases from "form a more perfect Union" through "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." For Your Turn, accept other reasonable park actions clearly linked to two different Preamble goals.