

Worksheet Notes

What are the six functions of government in the preamble to the Constitution?

1. “form a more perfect Union”:
 - To make this a better country.
 - To fix the problems of the Articles of Confederation that was the structure of our government before the Constitution
2. “establish Justice”:
 - To make sure people are treated fairly
 - To have a country governed by laws, not by men.
3. “ensure domestic Tranquility”
 - To keep things peaceful inside the country
 - To keep our neighborhoods safe
4. “provide for the common defense”
 - To protect ourselves from other countries and their armies
 - “Common” meaning all of the states in the Union
5. “promote the general welfare”
 - Make life better for individuals and families
6. “secure the blessings of Liberty”
 - Freedoms we fought for independence from Great Britain for
 - Freedom of religion, right to representative government, freedom of speech, right to own property,

Who did the people of 1787 write this Constitution for?: “to ourselves and our Posterity”

- “The People” did it themselves.
- Radical idea at the time: we don’t need a King to tell us how to govern ourselves
- “Our Posterity”: Their children, and their children’s children. Future generations. They did it for us.

How do these functions affect you, your family and the local community?