

CONSTITUTION CORNER #7

The Thirteen Colonies

*Reminder to teacher, or reader, that everything in red italics is information or instruction for the teacher/reader only. The rest is your script to read out loud to your club. PLEASE PRINT HANDOUTS: "The American Nation in 1787". This lesson will be useless without the handout. Each person needs one, plus a PENCIL. (Not a pen.) Also, "A LITTLE STORY FOR MEMORIZING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES". **This 2nd handout is not to be distributed until after the lesson.***

Script: Welcome once again great patriots to an important little corner of our meeting where we will once again turn our attention and our hearts to our USA Constitution, or as the Founders called it, our "Banner of Freedom". In our day, we might re-name it "Banner of Hope", because it is the solution to each present-day problem that threatens the liberty of ourselves and our posterity.

Teacher/reader: If your club has the time, quickly ask the questions from the beginning of Lesson #4, by saying, "Let's first give an enthusiastic shout-out then, in reciting the basic structure to our honored Constitution". [How many articles, what is the Starwars acronym, what does each letter stand for, and recite the Preamble.]

Last time we met, we had just finished a very deep dive into the longest article of the seven articles in the Constitution. That of course, is Article One, with its very strict and unique laws concerning our Congress. After all that cramming of information into our heads, it seems appropriate to give ourselves somewhat of a break – something a little easier on the brain, and fun.

You know, here in the west, we are not so familiar with the states on the east coast where the Thirteen colonies reside. These Thirteen Colonies are listed, by the way, in Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3 -- or, 1.2.3. You have each been given a map of The American Nation in 1787. Use a pencil to lightly fill in the names of the Thirteen Colonies. Later, you can erase your pencil answers and reproduce this map to see if your children or grandchildren, or spouse, can fill in the colony name.

To make it more interesting, here's a little story to help children, and us, remember the names of the Thirteen Colonies. The story, written for children, has some HINTS about the name of each colony to help children remember them. Start at the bottom of the map and move upward (more or less!) Do you have your pencils ready? Here we go.

A LITTLE STORY FOR MEMORIZING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

Once upon a time there was a handsome young man named **GEORGE**. He was dating a beautiful girl named **CAROLINE**. Caroline was the perfect woman for George. Except that he noticed that she was quite a moody person. Sometimes she was **DOWN**, and sometimes she was **UP**. But George decided that he loved her enough to marry her anyway. And that's just what they did.

It was not long before Caroline and George were blessed with a darling baby girl. They named her **VIRGINIA**. She was a big, big baby, and they loved her very much. Soon, much to their surprise, along came another baby girl. They named her **MARY**. **LAND** sakes! -- she was so cute! She had many dimples, and she was such a cuddly little thing, not nearly as big as Virginia. Then, surprise, surprise -- another girl! This one they named little **DELA**. **WHERE** they came up with that name, no one knows, but it seemed to fit!

This wonderful and complete family lived contentedly in the great state of **PENNSYLVANIA**. Well, contentedly that is, until the three girls became teenagers. At that time, the three teenage girls decided that they had enough pot belly stoves and bifocals that now, they all just wanted to try out living somewhere **NEW** and exciting!

Virginia, for instance, wanted to live in **NEW YORK**. Nowhere could be more exciting than the big city life of New York City. Mary wanted to live in **NEW JERSEY**. She longed to live where she could bask on the miles and miles of beaches there. Little Dela had a sweet tooth and wanted to live where she could always find maple syrup – **NEW HAMPSHIRE** was definitely the place for her!

A quarrel ensued between the three sisters, and caused the whole household to be in a constant uproar. Finally, George and Caroline could stand it no more. They went to their three daughters and said, “This is it! No more splitting of our family about where to live! We need to get **CONNECTED – CUT** it out! **WE** will decide where we will move, and you will just follow. Pack your things now!

The girls obediently packed, and with trailer in tow, George’s family left Pennsylvania in their car. Then, they rode and rode and rode and rode and **RHODE! ISLANDS** and lakes and even the ocean could be seen whizzing by the car windows.

Finally, they came to their surprise destination! They were all so happy to have arrived, that they had a tea party to celebrate! Can you guess where it was? [Boston **MASSACHUSETTS**.] The End.

This has been fun, if not enlightening! Answers can be found by studying U.S. maps online. We also have a copy of the little story for you to read to your children as an activity to bring them further into the

world of the history of the US Constitution. *[Distribute the second handout with the little story.]*

FIVE NEW FACTS FROM CONSTITUTION CORNER #7

1. Little Delaware brags that it was the FIRST colony to ratify, or officially accept the Constitution as the possible law of the new Country. The tiny state is even shaped like the number one.
2. As stated in the 7th Article, **nine** of the thirteen colonies had to officially accept the new Constitution for it to become law.
3. The 9th Colony, after much debate and study among them, finally ratified the new law. That was New Hampshire (June 1788). **Now the Constitution was officially the Law of the land, and the United States of America was born.** Virginia came soon after in July of 1788, followed by the rest of the colonies.
4. Rhode Island, called “Rogue Island” by the other colonies, was almost left out of the USA by dragging its feet until May 1790!
5. Can you now name the 13 Colonies by memory? Note that Vermont was NOT one of the 13 colonies. Both New York and New Hampshire had claimed that territory at the time. Nor was Maine, nor Florida, both left off the map to help remember. Lastly, West Virginia is also not on the map; it became an official new state in 1863 by splitting from Virginia during the Civil War.

Next month, we will dive into ARTICLE TWO. Are you ready to discover whether or not your President is following the Constitution after swearing on the Bible that he will do so? Stay tuned for next time.

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