

Name: _____

Blizzard Bag Fourth Grade

	Grade 4 Blizzard Bag Day 3
Literacy and Social Studies	Read the article, <u>A Constitution for Kids</u> Answer questions

A Constitution for Kids

Sometimes reading the U.S. Constitution can be confusing. Most people can't tell their *habeas corpus*¹ from their *ex post facto*.²

In 2003, Cathy Travis took the confusion out of the Constitution. Travis, who works as a congressional aide in Washington, D.C., wrote a book, *Constitution Translated for Kids*, that makes reading the Constitution as simple as saying "We the People."

The 85-page book has the original text of the Constitution on one page and Travis's **translation**³ on the facing page.

For example, article 1, section 9, clause 3, of the Constitution reads: "No Bill of Attainder or *ex post facto* law shall be passed."

Travis's translation: "Criminal laws passed by Congress can be applied only from the time they are passed."

Travis said she got the idea to write the book when Ross Perot ran for president in 1992 against George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. She became angry every time Perot made statements about the Constitution that she considered inaccurate.

Travis said she took great care to make sure that her translation of the document was fair and accurate. Many aspects of the Constitution are open to debate.

"The Constitution belongs to everyone. If you make it sound like the beliefs of one party or the other, you are doing a great disservice to everybody," Travis told the *Austin-American Statesman*.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Article 1, section 9, clause 3, of the Constitution reads: "No Bill of Attainder or *ex post facto* law shall be passed." How does Cathy Travis "translate" this article?

- A Criminal laws passed by Congress can be applied only from the time they are passed.
- B Laws passed by Congress can be made retroactive affecting past events.
- C Criminal laws passed by Congress cannot be applied from the time they are passed.
- D Criminals laws passed by Congress cannot go into effect until all states have ratified them.

2. Read these two sentences from the passage:

"Travis said she got the idea to write the book when Ross Perot ran for president in 1992 against George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. She became angry every time Perot made statements about the Constitution that she considered inaccurate."

Which of the following describes the relationship between these two sentences?

- A The sentences describe two steps in a process.
- B The sentences show two sides of an argument.
- C The second sentence is the solution to the first.
- D The first sentence gives the effect of the second.

3. What was the author trying to convey to the reader by stating "Most people can't tell their *habeas corpus* from their *ex post facto*."?

- A why more people need to go back to school
- B that the Constitution can be confusing
- C how English and Latin are so similar
- D that people should read more carefully

5. Which statement best describes the central idea of this passage?

- A The U.S. Constitution is a very important document to read.
- B Many sections of the Constitution are open to debate from either party.
- C Cathy Travis wrote a book to make the Constitution easier to understand.
- D Being a congressional aide is a job that requires hard work and dedication.

6. What did Cathy Travis take great care to do when writing her book?

7. Why is the U.S. Constitution important? How do you know? Give a specific example from the article that supports your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ hearing Ross Perot's statements about the U.S. Constitution, Cathy Travis became angry at what she considered inaccurate information.

- A Before
- B After
- C Although
- D Because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Because the U.S. Constitution can be confusing, Cathy Travis wrote a book in 2003 to translate the document into simpler language.

Who? Cathy Travis

(did) What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** disservice: an unhelpful act.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Day 2 - Math

1. Anthony picked $2\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of peaches from the tree in his backyard. He gave his neighbor $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of peaches. How many pounds of peaches does Anthony have left? Explain your reasoning.

2. Kathy is making her famous punch for a party. She needs to mix $4\frac{3}{4}$ gallons of fruit juice with $4\frac{3}{4}$ gallons of Sprite. She only has a 10-gallon container. Will the punch fit? How much punch will the recipe make? Explain your reasoning.

3. Trevor has $4\frac{1}{8}$ pizzas left over from his soccer party. After giving some pizza to his friend, he has $2\frac{4}{8}$ of a pizza left. How much pizza did Trevor give to his friend? Explain your reasoning.

4. Trevor and his soccer team ate a lot of pizza before he gave some to his friends. How much pizza could they have eaten before Trevor gave some to his friends. Write an equation to prove your answer.

Go to Khan Academy and practice solving fraction word problems.

<http://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fourth-grade-math/cc-4th-fractions-topic/cc-4th-add-sub-word-problems/e/adding-and-subtracting-fractions-with-like-denominators-word-problems>

Optional:

Log on to Fastt Math and work for 15 minutes. Use the Fastt Math link on the HCSDeSchool page:

<http://www.hilliardschools.org/elem/eschool.cfm?ID=Math&Pages=2>

Day 2 – Science

Learning Target: *Construct knowledge and understanding in all science content areas through inquiry.*

Web link and Directions: Read the following three e-books and write a summary of each one. If you click on the “play” button at the top of each book, a narrator will read the book aloud and you can follow along.

Read **People of the Whale**

http://www.contentclips.com/services/getPresenterHtml?uri=http://rs1.contentclips.com/ipy/clips/ipy_1006_45_people_01653.swf&whence=link

Read **The Heart of Erebus**

http://www.contentclips.com/services/getPresenterHtml?uri=http://rs1.contentclips.com/ipy/clips/ipy_0812_45v2_ereb_01734.swf&whence=link

Read **The Shiniest Moon**

http://www.contentclips.com/services/getPresenterHtml?uri=http://rs1.contentclips.com/ipy/clips/ipy_0810_45v2_light_01728.swf&whence=link

What to bring back to school: your summary of the three books you read. This can be written or digital.