

# Top Ten American History Essentials

Think you know your American history? See if you can master these 10 worksheets that span our country's history from the founding fathers to Watergate.

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# The First 10 Amendments

Match each Amendment with its description.

Amendment 1

Freedom of Speech and Religion.

Amendment 2

Right to a trial by a jury.

Amendment 3

Freedom from arrest without a warrant.

Amendment 4

Right to possess arms.

Amendment 5

Right to a public and speedy trial.

Amendment 6

Prohibits cruel and unusual punishments.

Amendment 7

Quartering of soldiers prohibited during peacetime.

Amendment 8

Assures recognition of rights that people may have but not listed here.

Amendment 9

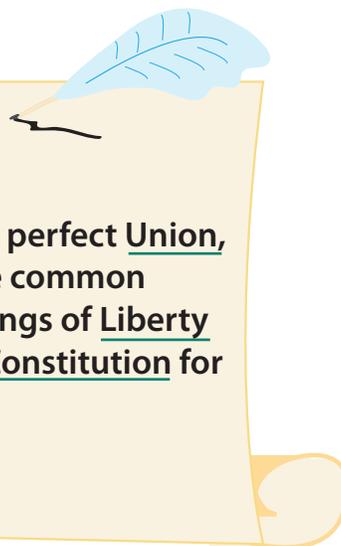
Provides that the powers that are not given to the United States are reserved to the states or to the people.

Amendment 10

Prohibits punishments without legal procedures.

# Preamble to the Constitution: Vocabulary Lesson

Read the Preamble to the Constitution and note the underlined vocabulary words.  
After you finish reading, follow the directions below.



"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".

Below is a list of synonyms of the underlined words. Beside each synonym, write the matching vocabulary word from the Preamble of the Constitution.

Create

\_\_\_\_\_

Descendants

\_\_\_\_\_

Peace

\_\_\_\_\_

Protection

\_\_\_\_\_

Enact

\_\_\_\_\_

Freedom

\_\_\_\_\_

Fairness

\_\_\_\_\_

Law

\_\_\_\_\_

Well-being

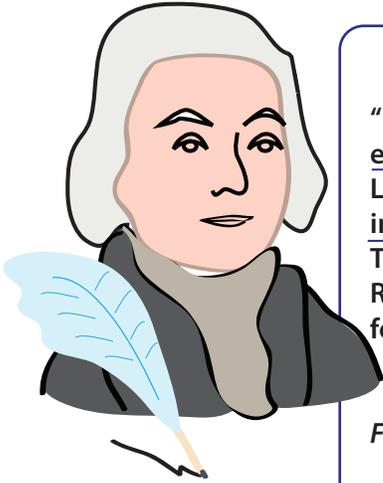
\_\_\_\_\_

Nation

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Declaration of Independence: Vocabulary Lesson

Read the excerpt from the Declaration of Independence and note the underlined vocabulary words. After you finish reading, follow the directions below.



"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

*From the start of the second paragraph from the original document.*

Below is a list of synonyms of the underlined words. Beside each synonym, write the matching vocabulary word from the Declaration of Independence.

Obvious

\_\_\_\_\_

Absolute

\_\_\_\_\_

Change

\_\_\_\_\_

Receiving

\_\_\_\_\_

Destroy

\_\_\_\_\_

Given

\_\_\_\_\_

Created

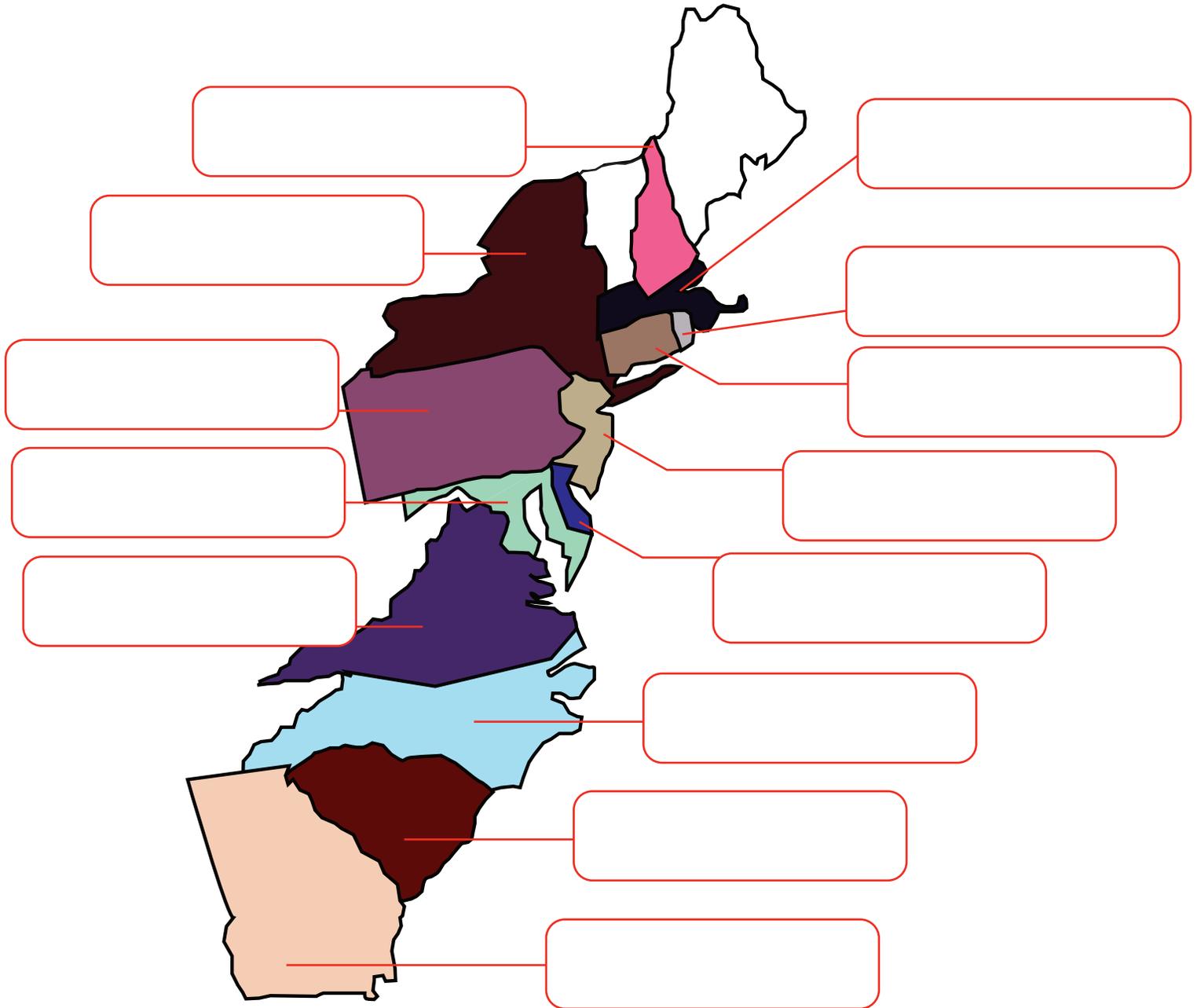
\_\_\_\_\_

Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_

# The 13 Colonies

Below is a map of the 13 original colonies. Label each colony with a name from the word bank.



- |               |               |                |                |          |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Pennsylvania  | Massachusetts | Rhode Island   | South Carolina | Maryland |
| New Hampshire | Delaware      | North Carolina | New Jersey     |          |
| New York      | Virginia      | Georgia        | Connecticut    |          |

# Civil War

Find the missing word from each sentence in the box below.

1. The states that wished for the United States to remain together were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When \_\_\_\_\_ and his troops were finally surrounded by the Union, he surrendered on April 9th in 1865.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ freed all the slaves in 1863.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was made head of all the Union armies by President Abraham Lincoln.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ started when the Northern and Southern states began to fight.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ States of America was formed when states seceded from the Union.

**General Lee**

**Emancipation Proclamation**

**General Grant**

**Confederate**

**Civil War**

**Union**



# How It Happened: History Sequencing

Place these U.S. history events in order from earliest to most recent.  
Write each letter in the boxes below to solve the riddle.



1890	President Richard Nixon resigns due to the Watergate scandal. [T]
1945	World War II officially ends. [O]
1969	U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong is the very first person to walk on the moon. [T]
1974	Hijacked planes crash into the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and a Pennsylvania field. [M]
1981	The Battle of Wounded Knee, the final battle between Native Americans and U.S. troops, is fought. [B]
2001	Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman nominated to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. [O]

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

<input type="text"/>					
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# I Have a Dream...

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a moving speech about equality at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. Review parts of the speech below, then use the next page to illustrate his dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal!"

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

... where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

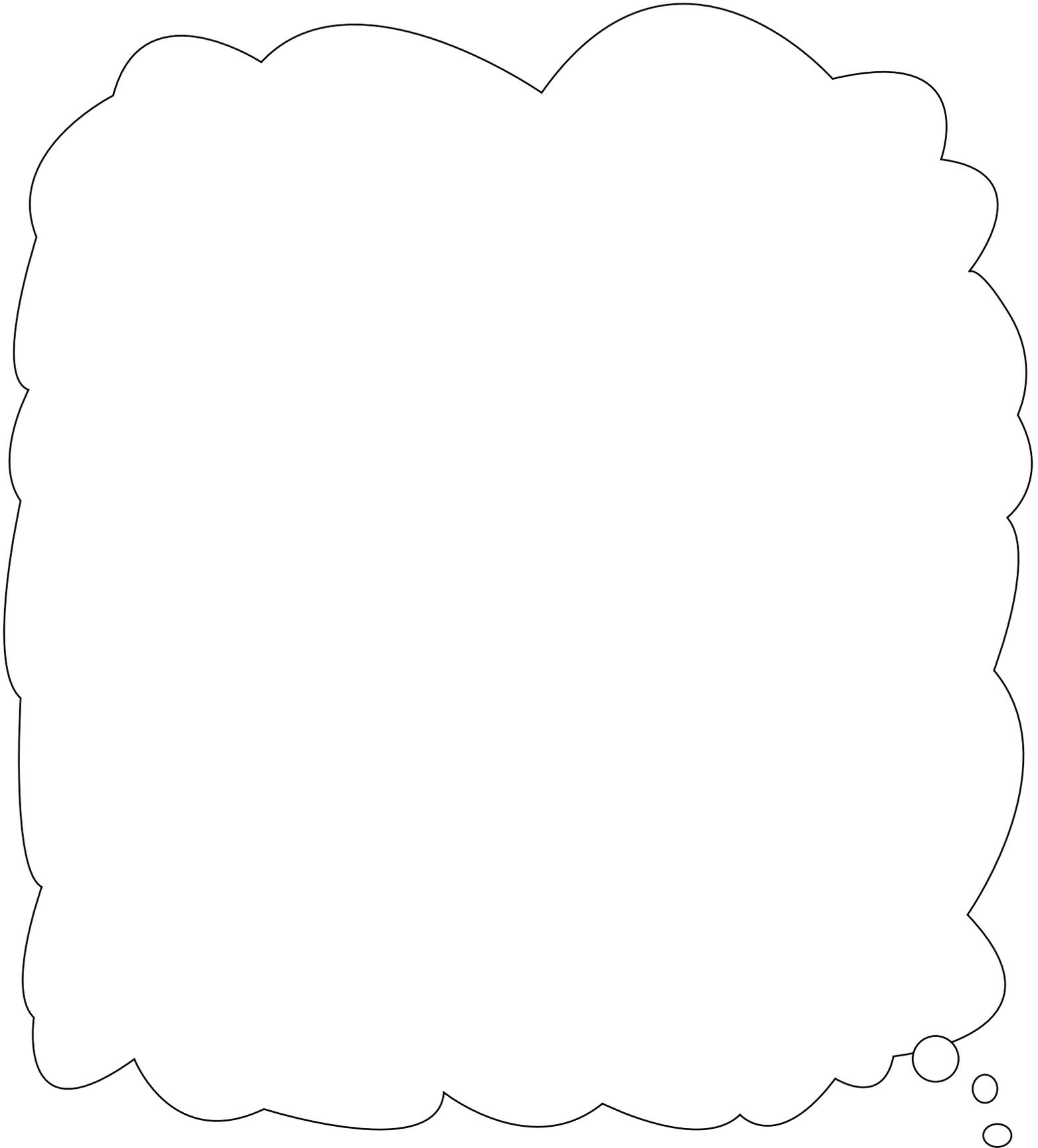
Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!  
Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!  
But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!  
Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

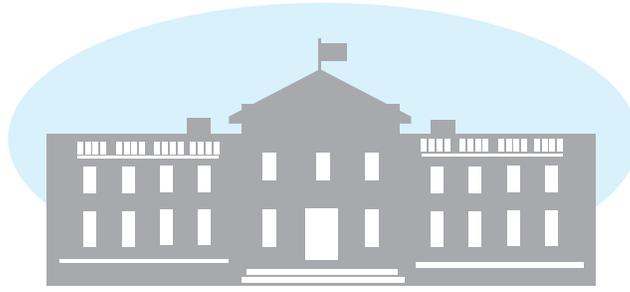
Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

# I Have a Dream...

Use the space below to illustrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream.





## Who's Who: Learn the Presidents

How well do you know the U.S. presidents? Match each president to his description.

---

"I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was elected president in 2008."

Zachary Taylor

"I was a peanut farmer from Georgia."

Jimmy Carter

"I was the only president to have been elected for four terms. I was in office when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor."

John Adams

"I was a lawyer and the seventh president. Folks called me 'Old Hickory'."

Ronald Reagan

"I fought in the Mexican-American War."

Andrew Jackson

"I was the first Vice President. I signed the Declaration of Independence."

Barack Obama

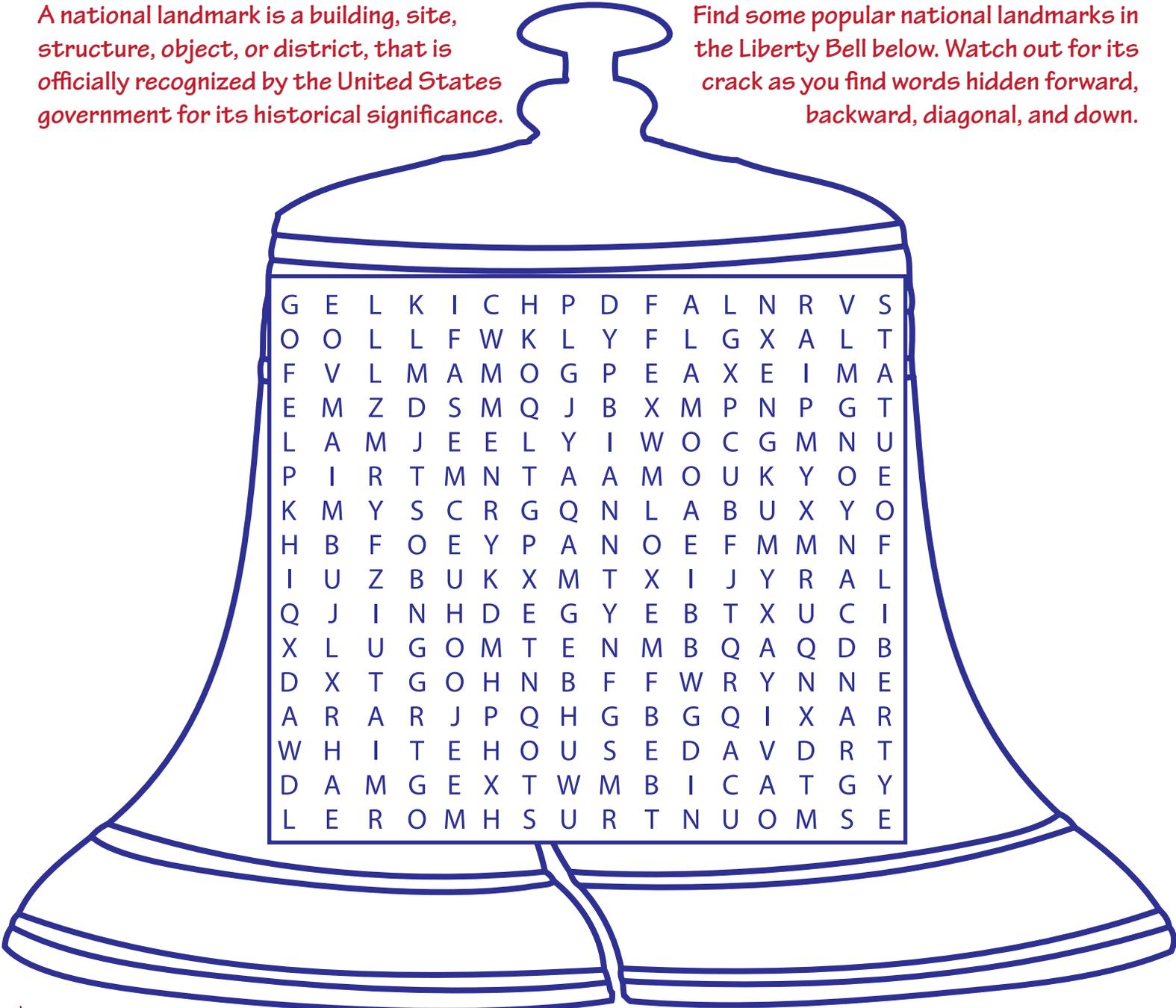
"I was the first television and movie star to become president."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



A national landmark is a building, site, structure, object, or district, that is officially recognized by the United States government for its historical significance.

Find some popular national landmarks in the Liberty Bell below. Watch out for its crack as you find words hidden forward, backward, diagonal, and down.



- ★ Golden Gate Bridge
- ★ Liberty Bell
- ★ Lincoln Memorial
- Iwo Jima ★
- National Mall
- Alamo ★
- Mount Rushmore
- Statue of Liberty
- White House
- Grand Canyon



Can you name some national landmarks that you've visited?