

# TGADSDEN THE FLAG

This flag was created by Christopher Gadsden. Even before the American Revolution, he opposed British control of the colonies. Along with other Founding Fathers, he founded a secret group called "The Sons of Liberty." They organized riots, harassed government officials, vandalized businesses, and tarred and feathered those who backed the British.

As a delegate for South Carolina during the first and second continental congress, he was asked to outfit the first group of Marines. His design featured a yellow flag with a coiled snake and the now-famous words "Don't Tread on Me." Christopher fiercely meant these words. During the Revolutionary War, he served as a Colonel in the Continental Army and then as the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina. The Governor eventually fled, but Christopher stayed behind in Charleston. He was forced to surrender the city. Christopher was thrown in prison and forced into solitary confinement. He was eventually released as part of a prisoner exchange. American patriots then defeated the British.

Several years later, he served as a delegate again, this time to the Constitutional Convention. After all his work for American liberty, he voted for ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. More than a decade after creating his snake flag, his warning became a reality. The British would no longer tread on him.

## MEANING OF THE SNAKE

When snakes feel threatened, they make a loud rattling noise. They only attack when provoked and never surrender. Snakes symbolize unity, power, and determination. Their image serves as a warning to other nations not to mess with America.

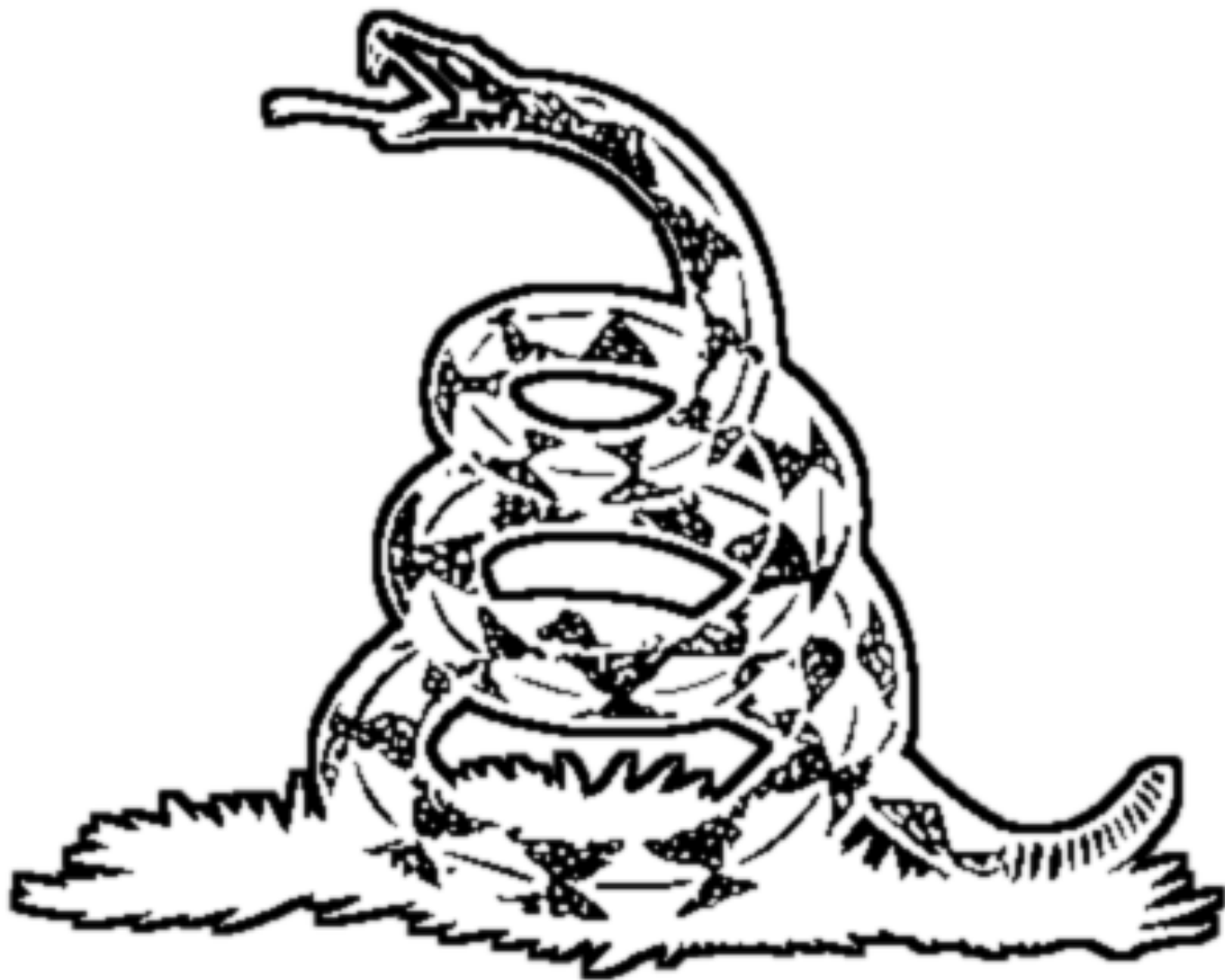
## HISTORY OF THE SNAKE

Leading up to the Revolutionary War, the rattlesnake image was popping up everywhere - from uniform buttons, paper money, banners, flags, and Marine drums. Benjamin Franklin introduced the rattlesnake to politics in 1751. In a newspaper article, he suggested that the U.S. should give Britain rattlesnakes in exchange for American prisoners. A few years later, Franklin drew a snake chopped into 8 sections. Each piece represented a colony. Below the snake were the words "Join or Die." This was the first political cartoon published in an American newspaper.

An anonymous writer called the "American Guesser" suggested that the rattlesnake be the American symbol. It's largely believed this person was Benjamin Franklin, given his public opposition to the bald eagle as the American symbol, calling it a "bird of bad moral character."

## WHO WAS FLYING THE GADSDEN FLAG?

The snake became an unofficial mascot for America in her early days. Today, donkeys and elephants represent political parties. Before the Revolutionary War, there were no parties. Instead, there were two types of colonists: those okay with British rule and those who despised it. The snake came to be a symbol of those wanting to break away and demanding "no taxation without representation."



**DONT TREAD ON ME**

COLOR THE GADSDEN FLAG:

Yellow: Background & inside of snake

Green: Grass

Black: Fill in text



“What I can do for  
my country, I am  
willing to do.”

Christopher  
Gadsden

# More Unit Studies Are Available on Etsy...

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/HomeschoolingHelps?ref=l2-about-shopname>



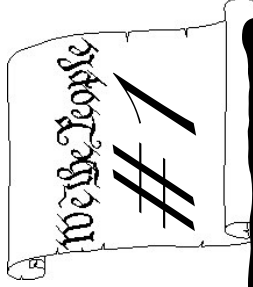
**SEE SAMPLE BELOW!!!**

## Bill of Rights Homeschooling Unit Study

70 Printable Pages w/ Worksheets,  
Coloring Pages, Activities, Match  
Game & Quizes on Constitution

This comprehensive unit study on the Bill of Rights will make kids excited about civics. After a brief overview, students will do a deep dive on each of the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Each one includes a detailed explanation, bookmark craft, activity, and quiz. At the end of the unit study, kids can test their knowledge with a match game, crossword puzzle, word scramble, and word search. When they're finished, students will understand each amendment and how it applies to their daily life. Suitable for grades 4th-6th. The unit study is 70 pages. Feel free to print all at once or as students go through each section.

# FIRST AMENDMENT



The First Amendment gives us freedoms that the government can never take away. This amendment guarantees American citizens the right to certain actions and activities. No law, court, congressman, or president can eliminate or lessen these rights. Every American has the right to religion, freedom of speech, press, peaceful assembly, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

## THE FIRST AMENDMENT & YOU



### “redress grievances”

You can tell the government it did something wrong and ask them to fix it.

### “peaceful assembly”

You can hold a non-violent protest against the government and its leaders.

### “freedom of speech”

You can say what you want. All speech is protected, even if it is mean or offensive.

### “freedom of religion”

You can select any religion. The government cannot pick a favorite religion.

### “freedom of press”

Journalists can question the government and its leaders in the news.

## Alien & Sedition Act



**George Washington**  
*1st President of the United States*

“If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”



The second president signed a law called the Alien & Sedition Act that made it illegal to criticize the government. President John Adams used it to silence the press and prevent them from printing negative stories on him. More than 20 newspaper editors were arrested and imprisoned. The law was unpopular and caused Adams to lose re-election. His vice president, Thomas Jefferson, won the election and quickly eliminated the law.