



Contributor: Betsy Ruffin

State: Texas

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

US History

Analyze and evaluate the text, intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, and identify the full text of the first three paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence;

Analyze and evaluate the application of these founding principles to historical events in U.S. history; and Explain the contributions of the Founding Fathers such as Benjamin Rush, John Hancock, John Jay, John Witherspoon, John Peter Muhlenberg, Charles Carroll, and Jonathan Trumbull Sr.

Government

Identify and analyze methods of expanding the right to participate in the democratic process, including lobbying, non-violent protesting, litigation, and amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Citizenship

Evaluate various means of achieving equality of political rights, including the 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments and congressional acts such as the American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

Describe qualities of effective leadership

US Government

History

Understand how constitutional government, as developed in America and expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution, has been influenced by ideas, people, and historical document

Examine debates and compromises that impacted the creation of the founding documents

Government

Explain the importance of a written constitution;

Evaluate how the federal government serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

Analyze how the Federalist Papers such as Number 10, Number 39, and Number 51 explain the principles of the American constitutional system of government

Evaluate constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government, including republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights

Describe the constitutionally prescribed procedures by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and analyze the role of the amendment process in a constitutional government

Identify how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution contribute to both a national identity and federal identity and are embodied in the United States today

Examine the reasons the Founding Fathers protected religious freedom in America and guaranteed its free exercise by saying that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," and compare and contrast this to the phrase, "separation of church and state."

Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch of government, including the bicameral structure of Congress, the role of committees, and the procedure for enacting laws

Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch of government, including the constitutional powers of the president, the growth of presidential power, and the role of the Cabinet and executive departments

Analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch of government, including the federal court system, types of jurisdiction, and judicial review

Citizenship

Understand the roles of limited government and the rule of law in the protection of individual rights

Identify and define the unalienable rights

Identify the freedoms and rights guaranteed by each amendment in the Bill of Rights

Analyze U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution in selected cases, including Engel v. Vitale, Schenck v. United States, Texas v. Johnson, Miranda v. Arizona, Gideon v. Wainwright, Mapp v. Ohio, and Roe v. Wade

Explain the importance of due process rights to the protection of individual rights and in limiting the powers of government

Recall the conditions that produced the 14th Amendment and describe subsequent efforts to selectively extend some of the Bill of Rights to the states, including the Blaine Amendment and U.S. Supreme Court rulings, and analyze the impact on the scope of fundamental rights and federalism

Understand the responsibilities, duties, and obligations of citizenship such as being well informed about civic affairs, serving in the military, voting, serving on a jury, observing the laws, paying taxes, and serving the public good

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Student will be able to:

1. Summarize meanings of each article of the Constitution
2. List important events, items, and people in creation of Constitution, including Articles of Convention, Constitution Conventional, key figures in creation and ratification
3. List and explain the key rights in the Bill of Rights
4. List key amendments since Bill of Rights, such as voting rights amendments and presidential/ congressional regulatory amendments
5. Explain the structure, powers, and functions of the three branches of government
6. Explain how the electoral college works and the reasons for its use in US presidential elections
7. List and explain the civic duties of a citizen, including voting, paying taxes, serving on a jury,

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

Websites:

<https://kera.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/teaching-the-constitution/>

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/constitution-day-grades-9-12.html>

<https://www.k12.com/constitution-day.html>

<https://www.archives.gov/legislative/resources/education/constitution>

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/teaching-the-constitution>

Constitution Document sites

<https://www.archives.gov/publications/ebooks/exploring-constitution.html>

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

<http://constitution.org/constit .htm>

<http://www.consource.org/index/>

<https://www.usconstitution.cc>

4. Introduction of the topic:

What do you hear about the Constitution or Bill of Rights in the news? (An online search for the word Constitution, using Google News tab is one way to see some headlines) Why is it important to know about the document and the amendments? (Evaluate news for facts and bias; know our rights and responsibilities as US citizens, etc) List on class document why might we celebrate these documents and their meaning to us as US citizens?

Use one or both of the following videos to introduce the topic of Constitution Week:

<https://youtu.be/YISGbuohhro>

<https://youtu.be/jFffbz-zng>

5. Procedure for instruction:

1/5. Understanding that basic structure of US government as set forth in the articles of the Constitution- discuss (one source: <https://www.dummies.com/education/politics-government/the-7-articles-of-the-us-constitution/>) and any changes resulting from amendments (how senators are elected for example) (a source: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/how-us-constitution-has-evolved-over-time/>) ; describe 3 branches of government and functions/powers of each - have students tell what they know or think about these, then check for accuracy during discussion; how do they complement and how do they check each other (a simple source on checks and balances idea: <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/j-check-balance>)

2. Create timeline of events (one source: <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/timeline/>) from end of American Revolution and Articles of Confederation to Constitutional Convention to ratification, Bill of Rights; List key figures in Constitutional Convention (Madison, Washington, Hamilton, Sherman, Wilson, Franklin, etc) and their contributions to the convention (one source: <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/constitutional-convention/6-key-players-at-the-constitutional-convention/>) , the Constitution, and its ratification

3. List then have students explain basic rights in Bill of Rights in their own words - compare and contrast understanding of them according to original writers of Bill (one sources: <http://www.ushistory.org/us/18a.asp>) and today's citizens (going back to what they found in online search of news for Constitution)

4. How many amendments have been added since the Bill of Rights? What did they add to Constitutional law? In particular note amendments dealing with voting rights; What amendments have been proposed but not ratified (ERA) ; Discuss Convention of States (Article 5) (<https://conventionofstates.com>) movement noting the pros and cons of this movement one source: <https://www.heritage.org/the-constitution/commentary/con-carries-pros-and-cons>) (sources:<http://www.ushistory.org/documents/amendments.htm>. <https://www.usconstitution.net/constamfail.html>)

6. Discuss how electoral college works, the reasons it was formed by Constitution Framers (balance of voting power between large and small states for example); compare and contrast to reasons for compromise (one source:https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/A_Great_Compromise.htm) creating House of Representatives and Senate (representation by population vs equal numbers for all states) (sources: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/about.html>. <https://www.historycentral.com/elections/Electoralcollegewhy.html>).

7. Compare and contrast: government rights guarantees to US citizens and citizen duties to government; which civic rights and duties can they already enjoy or participate in and which are still to come at certain ages (one source:<https://legalbeagle.com/6796573-rights-obligations-american-citizenship-entail.html>)

6. Lesson closure:

Relate these issues to current news events; discuss importance for understanding what Constitution actually says and means for citizens today; are there ways people are misunderstanding it?

7. Assessment of student understanding:

Options:

Quiz: relate to specific course- US History focus on events and figures of Constitutional creation and ratification process; US Government - focus on structure of government

Create: poster, online doc, speech, short play related to Constitution and Bill of Rights to share with elementary or middle school class

Write: article to share with school or community paper on why Constitution is important and why we celebrate Constitution Week