



Contributor: Betsy Ruffin

State: Texas

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

History:

Explain the reasons for national patriotic holidays such as Presidents' Day, Veterans Day, and Independence Day
Identify contributions of historical figures, including Stephen F. Austin, George Washington, Christopher Columbus, and José Antonio Navarro, who helped to shape the state and nation

Government:

Identify functions of governments such as establishing order, providing security, and managing conflict
Identify and describe the roles of public officials in the community, state, and nation
Identify purposes for having rules
Identify and describe the role of a good citizen in maintaining a constitutional republic.

Citizenship:

Identify Constitution Day as a celebration of American freedom

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Student will be able to:

Name one reason for celebrating Constitution Week
Identify the Constitution as listing basic rules for how the US government works
Identify the three branches of the US government from a given list
Name one way to be a good citizen of the US

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

Websites:

<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/usconstitution/>
<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/constitution-day-grades-k-5.html>
<https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/we-the-civics-kids>
<https://constitutioncenter.org/constitution-day/constitution-day-resources/elementary-school-resources/>
<https://www.k12.com/constitution-day.html>

Simplified Constitution explanations:

http://www.atlcomputing.com/aaron/info/easy_constitution.htm
<http://www.government-and-constitution.org/us-constitution/us-constitution-simplified.htm>
<https://teachingcivics.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Simplified-United-States-Constitution-and-Bill-of-Rights.pdf>
<https://kids.laws.com/articles-of-the-constitution>
<https://237740038185050404.weebly.com/articles-1-7.html>

4. Introduction of the topic:

Introduce topic from the idea that the classroom has rules; so does the US government. Those rules are listed in the Constitution as our school rules might be listed in the handbook or classroom rules on a location on the wall or such of class. We celebrate the signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1797. Use video Schoolhouse Rock: Constitution https://youtu.be/0EfnNUt_nwY. Let students list some things the video said about Constitution, may make list on board or computer doc.

5. **Procedure for instruction:**

Introduce vocabulary with definitions and in sentences, relating them to school analogies to help them understand better: Constitution, legislative, executive, judicial, citizenship

1. Rules - Why do we need rules, what might happen if we did not have rules - discuss, listing on class document; Compare and contrast rules for classroom and rules for country using broad areas such as rights and responsibilities

2. Branches- use idea of tree, drawing a tree and listing each branch as it is discussed; (optional - use leaves to say what each branch's basic function is) - all branches part of one entity- Executive is president/vice president (enforces law); legislative is congress-senate, house of representatives (makes law) ; judicial is courts (interprets law); Does school have these branches? If not, what is the structure of school? (Perhaps Principals - Teachers - School Board)

3. Constitution Week - Discuss: Why do we celebrate certain days? Why do we celebrate Independence Day? Constitution Week is another celebration/remembrance of an important part of history. Discuss reasons for this (sets up our government, lists our rights or freedoms, remind us of responsibilities etc.)

4. Citizenship - What actions show we are good classroom citizens? How can we be good citizens of the US? (Sources:<http://www.sanchezclass.com/goodcitizen.htm>

<http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/civics/elementary/elementary/elem-six-being-a-good-citizen.2485927>)

6. **Lesson closure:**

Suggestions: draw picture of "Constitution tree" with three branches of government named; draw picture showing person being good citizen of US; make a poster encouraging people to celebrate Constitution Week; sign a pledge to read/remember/respect the US Constitution

7. **Assessment of student understanding:**

Quiz: circle three branches of government from given list, T/F - the US Constitution lists rules for our government; write or draw one way to be a good US citizen;