

GET TO KNOW THE CONSTITUTION

Time Allocated: One 55-minute class period

Correlation to the Alabama High School Graduation Exam:

Standard I, Objective 1

Standard II, Objectives 1 & 2

Standard III, Objective 1

Correlation to the Alabama Course of Study:

United States Studies: Beginnings to 1877 – Fifth Grade Standards: 9

Citizenship – Seventh Grade Standards: 1 & 4

United States History to 1877 – Tenth Grade Standards: 4

United States Government – Twelfth Grade Standards: 2

Lesson Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Identify the Constitution as the plan of government for the United States.
2. Explain that the Constitution provides for three branches of government.
3. Understand that the Constitution contains a Preamble, seven Articles and twenty-seven Amendments.

Materials Needed:

1. Excerpts from *Shh...We're Writing the Constitution*, Jean Fritz and/or *Miracle at Philadelphia*, Catherine Drinker Bowen
2. [The Constitution for the United States of America](#)
3. Handout: Constitution Search

Major Instructional Sequence:

1. Refer to the discussion of the previous day concerning rules and James Madison's quotation.
2. Read selected excerpts from *Shh...We're Writing the Constitution* or *Miracle at Philadelphia* to give the students an idea of the reasons a constitution was needed, the Founding Fathers who were involved, the conditions (length of time it took, the weather, the place — Philadelphia, disagreements and compromises, etc.).
3. Provide each student with a copy of the Constitution (Refer to text, or make copies from curriculum CD).
4. Discuss the way the Constitution is organized (Preamble, Articles, Amendments, etc.).
5. Divide the class into small groups. Each student should be given a copy of the Handout, "Constitution Search." Students groups should work together and refer to the Constitution to complete "Constitution Search."

Closure or Evaluation:

The handouts may be collected for evaluation and feedback, or they may be used for discussion and clarification.

Name _____

Date _____

CONSTITUTION SEARCH

1. _____ Number of Preamble
2. _____ Number of Articles
3. _____ Number of amendments ratified in 1791 that make up the Bill of Rights
4. _____ Number of total amendments
5. Article I discusses the Legislative branch of the government.
What are the names of the two houses that make up the Legislative branch?
6. According to Article II, who has the job of enforcing the laws?
7. In Article III, who has the job of interpreting or explaining the laws?
8. The Constitution provides for how many branches of government?
9. According to Article V, changing the constitution is called _____.
10. Amendment _____ says that you can vote when you are 18 years of age.
11. Search Article II to see what qualifications a person must have to become President of the United States and write them below.