

3rd & 4th Grades
Lesson Plan
Constitution Day-September 17th



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 3 rd & 4 th	Lesson: Constitution Day September 17 th

<p>OBJECTIVES: US Department of Education: Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students on September 17 (if it falls on a weekend; it should be held in the previous or next week).</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring Sheet 																
<p>MATERIALS:</p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; zipper baggies copies of the Constitution Vocabulary Sheet; copies of the Constitution Day Vocabulary Worksheet; copies of Comprehension Worksheet <i>We the People, Civic Values in America</i>; copies of the Preamble Scramble; copies of the Constitution Day Coloring Sheet</p>																
<p>Engage: Hook the students</p>	<p>Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner, and share their answer. Read aloud: The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787. How old does that make our constitution? Even though it is very old, the Constitution is still relevant to our lives every day. Many of the rights/freedoms we have in this country are provided in the first 10 Amendments to the constitution, we call the first 10 Amendments the Bill of Rights. With the freedoms we enjoy in the United States come responsibilities to be a good citizen. T/P/S Question: Make a list of three things that you can do as a good citizen. When the students have finished, let each student share one of their answers with the rest of the class. Write their answers on the board. Discuss the different answers, have the students rank the top 5 answers.</p>																
<p>Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Hand out a copy of the Constitution Vocabulary to each student. Go over the vocabulary orally. Play the YouTube Read Aloud, <i>We the People: Civic Values in America</i>, Author Kelly Rodgers. https://youtu.be/6xX8brrD3L4 Hand out copies of the Constitution Day Vocabulary Worksheet. Allow students time to complete. Hand out copies of the Comprehension Worksheet <i>We the People, Civic Values in America</i>. Allow students time to complete. Play the YouTube Schoolhouse Rock Video, <i>The Preamble</i>. https://youtu.be/8_NzZvdsbWI Handout copies of the Preamble Scramble. Hand out copies of the Constitution Day Coloring Sheet.</p>																
<p>Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">amendments</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">colonies</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">independence</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">US Constitution</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Articles of Confederation</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">colonists</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">justice</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">values</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">citizens</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">democracy</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">responsibilities</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">civics</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">equality</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">rights</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	amendments	colonies	independence	US Constitution	Articles of Confederation	colonists	justice	values	citizens	democracy	responsibilities		civics	equality	rights	
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<p>Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Students learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, and to appreciate the importance of active citizenship by completing the materials and activities in this lesson plan.</p>																
<p>Evaluate: assessment.</p>	<p>The teacher will determine the activities that will be utilized for formal and informal assessment.</p>																
<p>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</p>	<p>Let students select a project they can do at school or at home, that defines what it means to be a good citizen.</p>																

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Constitution Vocabulary Words

Amendments-changes to the words or meaning of a law or document

Articles-the body of the US Constitution that explains how the government works

Articles of Confederation-the first set of laws for the United States before the US Constitution

Citizen-a person who legally belongs to a country

Civic-having to do with being a citizen

Colonies-areas ruled by another country

Colonists-people who live in a colony

Democracy-a form of government in which people choose their leaders by voting in elections

Equality-being equal or the same

Independence-freedom from outside control or support

Justice-fairness

Preamble-the introduction to the constitution, it states why the constitution was written

Responsibilities-tasks or duties that are required of a person

Rights-things a person should be allowed to have or to do

United States Constitution-the system of beliefs and laws by which the United States is organized

Values-strongly held beliefs about what is important

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Constitution Day Vocabulary Worksheet

Directions: Use the vocabulary words in the box below to fill in the blanks in the sentences. Each word will be used once.

1. When all people have the same rights, there is _____.
2. Everyone has _____, or things we must do.
3. Beliefs people have about what they think is right are _____.
4. The Declaration of _____ said the United States was separating from Great Britain to become its own country.
5. For a _____ to work, the people must participate in the government.
6. The First Amendment to the Constitution gives people the _____ to say what they want to say.
7. Responsible _____ work to make America a better country.
8. Exercising your right to choose our leaders is an important _____ value.
9. The Articles of _____ were the first set of laws for the United States.
10. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and _____ for all.

Vocabulary Terms

Civic	Independence
Democracy	Confederation
Citizens	Equality
Right	Values
Justice	Responsibilities

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ANSWER KEY Constitution Day Vocabulary Worksheet

Directions: Use the vocabulary words in the box below to fill in the blanks in the sentences. Each word will be used once.

1. When all people have the same rights, there is Equality.
2. Everyone has Responsibilities, or things we must do.
3. Beliefs people have about what they think is right are Values.
4. The Declaration of Independence said the United States was separating from Great Britain to become its own country.
5. For a Democracy to work, the people must participate in the government.
6. The First Amendment to the Constitution gives people the Right to say what they want to say.
7. Responsible Citizens work to make America a better country.
8. Exercising your right to choose our leaders is an important Civic value.
9. The Articles of Confederation were the first set of laws for the United States.
10. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all.

Vocabulary Terms

Civic	Independence
Democracy	Confederation
Citizens	Equality
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Comprehension Worksheet *We the People, Civic Values in America*

Directions: Write a sentence in the space provided on what you learned about the topic from the book.

TOPIC	WHAT I LEARNED
Early American Leaders	
Declaration of Independence	
United States Constitution	
Responsible Citizens	

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The Preamble Scramble

Directions: Display the Preamble (shown below) on the white board or another device. Read it aloud together. Give students 5-8 minutes to study the order of the phrases. Hand out copies of the Preamble precut into strips in plastic zipper bags. Make sure to mix them up when you place them in the baggie! Hand out the zipper bags, tell students this is a timed event, so all students should wait until you tell them to start. They should put the precut strips in the correct order on their desk. As they complete the drill, tell them to raise their hands so you can check for accuracy. Students who have completed the drill correctly can help you check the work of the rest of the students. Continue until all students have completed the assignment correctly.

The Preamble to the US Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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.

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The Preamble Scramble

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