5th & 6th Grades
Lesson Plans
Constitution Day
The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights

Article I
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III
No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V
No person shall be held to answer for any capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Article VII
In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.
# Wreaths Across America
## Lesson Plan

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<th>Teacher:</th>
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**Grades:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Lesson:** Constitution Day, September 17

### 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).

### STRATEGIES:
- Writing
- K-W-L
- Collaboration
- Discussion Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

### MATERIALS:
- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the US Constitution K-W-L; copies of the Bill of Rights; copies of the Bill of Rights Matching Activity; copies of the My Top Five and Why Critical Thinking Worksheet; copies of Constitution Word Search Puzzle;

### Engage:
Hook the students  
Handout the US Constitution K-W-L Worksheet. Allow students time to fill in the first and second sections of the K-W-L worksheet.  

### Explore:
Students make sense of a concept through observations.  
Hand out the copies of the Bill of Rights. Explain that several states refused to ratify the US Constitution until it included a Bill of Rights. James Madison reviewed notes from the Philadelphia convention and drafted *The Bill of Rights*. They were later added to the Constitution as the first 10 amendments. Read the Bill of Rights aloud, briefly discuss the meaning of each.  
Hand out copies of the Bill of Rights Matching Activity. Allow students time to complete the activity.  
Hand out copies of the My Top Five and Why Critical Thinking Worksheet. Allow students time to complete the activity.  
Hand out copies of the Constitution Word Search Puzzle. Allow students time to complete the activity.  
Allow students time to complete the K-W-L worksheet.

### Explain:
Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.  
Articles of Confederation representatives legislative veto  
Bill of Rights checks & balances executive amendments  
2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress ratify judicial constitution

### Elaborate:
Students apply what they have learned.  
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.

### Evaluate:
Assessment.  
The teacher will determine the activities that will be utilized for formal and informal assessment.

### Enrichment/Service-Learning Project
For the Founding Fathers, the American Revolution and the creation of a new constitution were not just about getting rid of a King and holding elections. There was a moral dimension to the American Revolution—one that got at the character of American society. For this new government to succeed, the system itself had to produce elected officials committed to serving the common good—not their own self-interest. To download the Wreaths Across America Youth Service Project, go to [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/teach](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/teach)

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Remember-Honor-Teach
Remember-Honor-Teach
Original Ten Amendments: The Bill of Rights
Passed by Congress September 25, 1789.
Ratified December 15, 1791.

**Amendment I** Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment II** Right to Bear Arms
A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment III** Quartering of Soldiers
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Amendment IV** Search and Arrest
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Amendment V** Rights in Criminal Cases
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall any person be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Amendment VI** Right to A Fair Trial
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

**Amendment VII** Rights in Civil Cases
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Amendment VIII** Bail, Fines, Punishment
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Amendment IX** Rights Retained by the People
The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**Amendment X** States' Rights
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.
Bill of Rights Matching Activity

Directions: Write the correct Amendment number in the space provided.

_____ Rights in Criminal Cases No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

_____ Bail, Fines, Punishment Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

_____ Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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_____ Right to Bear Arms A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
Bill of Rights Matching Activity

Directions: Write the correct Amendment number in the space provided.

V____ Rights in Criminal Cases No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

VIII____ Bail, Fines, Punishment Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

I____ Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

X____ States’ Rights The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

IV____ Search and Arrest The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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II____ Right to Bear Arms A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
Name _____________________________________________

MY TOP FIVE and WHY?
Do you think certain amendments in the Bill of Rights are more important than others? In your opinion, what are the five most important amendments in the Bill of Rights? Place the five you selected in order of importance below.

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________

Explain why you chose each of the amendments you selected below.

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Remember-Honor-Teach
Constitution Word Search

Name_______________________

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G I B Y H N U J M E I K H O L V P
W P L E G I S L A T I V E Q A I Z
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Amendments | Ratify | Veto | Executive | Judicial
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Constitution | Checks and Balances | Bill of Rights | Representative | Legislative
President | Congress | Courts | Cabinet | Vote

Remember-Honor-Teach
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Grades: 5th & 6th Lesson: Constitution Day, September 17

Remember-Honor-Teach

Answer Key

Constitution Word Search

Name_______________________

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Amendments | Ratify | Veto | Executive | Judicial
---|---|---|---|---
Constitution Checks and Balances | Bill of Rights | Representative | Legislative
President Congress Courts Cabinet Vote