

CASTING CALL

New Nation

Learning objective(s): The student will

1. Analyze the leadership qualities of elected and appointed leaders of the U.S. such as George Washington.
2. Describe the major domestic problems faced by the leaders of the new republic.
3. Student understands the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the republic.
4. Students will use high

TEKS: 8.5A

Materials needed: Text and research material, current entertainment magazines or entertainment sections of the newspaper.

Vocabulary: cabinet, domestic and foreign policy, tariffs, precedents, revenue

Teaching strategy:

1. Students will read and research the early leaders and how they addressed problems in the New Nation.
2. Students write a description of the following people:
 - George Washington
 - John Adams
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Henry Knox
 - Alexander Hamilton
 - Edmund Randolph
3. Students then explain how each of the following problems was tackled by the leaders of the New Nation.
 - How can the new nation raise revenue? Where should they keep it and how should they disperse it?
 - How can the president successfully govern the country? Who should give him advice? How should he address the Congress?
 - How should the country handle disputes with other nations? Who should be consulted in these decisions?
 - How should the land that the the New Nation acquires be managed and developed? How should the United States government handle the land and the resources of the Native Americans?

4. Working alone, each student will then “cast” a current actor to play the leaders of the New Nation in an upcoming documentary being filmed in Austin. Students need to list the Leader/Actor then a justification for the choice.
(i.e. George Washington/John Travolta-John Travolta is tall and can play an important and leader like character. He can command the respect of those around him and he seems to be calm in a crisis.)

George Washington/_____ -

John Adams/_____ -

Thomas Jefferson/_____ -

Henry Knox/_____ -

Alexander Hamilton/_____ -

Edmund Randolph/_____ -

5. During the next class period, students then get together in groups of 4-5, teacher choice. Students present their cast to the group, trying to convince the others of the appropriateness of their choices based on qualities, task to be completed and similarities to the leader in the New Nation.
6. Each group will then try to get their slate of actors cast by the entire class. Points could be awarded for the group that successfully “casts” the most roles.
7. Each group of students can then be asked to write a script for a scene from the list of problems researched at the beginning of the activity. Students can then actually perform and record the scene with available equipment.

GT/Pre-AP-Students will find a geographic location suited for the filming and justify their choice. Then they can create a budget and time schedule for the film, based on research from local film companies.