

CONSTITUTION SCAVENGER HUNT

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify important customs, symbols, and celebrations that represent American beliefs and principles and that contribute to our national identity.
2. Understand the important ideas and concepts in the US Constitution
3. Use skills of search to find information about the Constitution

TEKS: SS 4.21(A,B), LA 4.11(A,D)

Materials: Children's books, copies of Scavenger Hunt for each student

Vocabulary: constitution, convention, government, executive, legislative, judicial

Teaching Strategies:

1. Read a book to the class that has information about the ideas of the US Constitution such as:
 - *One Nation* by Devin Scillian
 - *N is for Our Nation's Capital* by Marie and Roland Smith
 - *D is for Democracy* by Elissa Grodin
 - *Here's to You, America!* By Charles Schutz
 - *Unite or Die* by Jacqueline Jules
 - *We the People* by Lynne Cheney
 - *A More Perfect Union* by Betsy and Giulio Maestro
2. Assign each student a partner. Students will use classroom resources, including the books mentioned as well as Internet resources, to find answers to the Scavenger Hunt questions.
3. Students will bring their answer sheets to the teacher for checking when finished. The first group to finish all answers correctly will be awarded a small prize.
4. Students will then respond to the question, "How would your life be different if we didn't have a Constitution?" in paragraph form. Allow some students to read their paragraphs aloud.

Extension for G/T

Students will evaluate the mood of the Constitutional Convention. Why were they meeting in secret? What did they originally hope to accomplish? Ask students to evaluate whether or not they would have signed the Constitution if they had been delegates to the convention.



Constitution Scavenger Hunt

The Constitution is the document that tells about how the United States government works. It explains the roles and responsibilities of all parts of the government and the rights of citizens of the United States. Use the resources in the classroom to find the answers to these questions.

1. When was the Constitutional Convention held? In what city?
2. Who was President of the Constitutional Convention?
3. How long did the Constitutional Convention last?
4. How many justices are on the Supreme Court? How long do they serve?
5. Who wrote the Bill of Rights?
6. What group is given the power to pass laws by the Constitution?
7. What does the phrase "E Pluribus Unum" mean? What does that phrase refer to?

8. Congress (the Legislative Branch) has two parts. What are they?
9. An amendment changes the Constitution. What does the 19th Amendment say?
10. The Constitution set up a government with 3 branches or parts. What are these parts?
11. When are national elections held?
12. How many people are in the House of Representatives?
13. How many people are in the Senate?
14. What group makes sure our laws to be sure they do not violate the Constitution?
15. What amendment guarantees the right to religious freedom?
16. What branch of government does the President head?

Constitution Scavenger Hunt Answer Key

1. 1787, Philadelphia
2. George Washington
3. 16 weeks
4. Nine, for life
5. James Madison
6. Legislative Branch
7. Out of many, one – 13 states make one nation
8. House of Representatives and Senate
9. Gave women the right to vote
10. Executive, Legislative, and Judicial
11. 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November
12. 435
13. 100
14. Supreme Court
15. First Amendment
16. Executive Branch