

OUR CONSTITUTION

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Understand how the Constitution of the United States was created.
2. Identify the roles of George Washington and James Madison in the Constitutional Convention.
3. Understand the purpose of rules and laws.
4. Enhance their oral language skills.
5. Obtain information about the Constitution and Independence Hall from a PowerPoint presentation.
6. Apply critical thinking skills to organize and use information from printed and visual sources.

TEKS: SS K.2A, 8A, 14B, 15A, 1.1A, 11A&B, 14A, 17B, 18A, 2.1A, 4A, 11A, 18B, 19A; LA K.2OA; 1.24A; 2.25A

Materials: Computer, LCD Projector (Optional), the attached "Our Constitution" PowerPoint presentation, sets of the attached Constitutional Convention Cards, cut apart

Vocabulary: Amendment, article, Bill of Rights, citizens, Constitution, convention, freedoms, preamble, rights, rules, laws, secret, vote

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students what their home or school would be like if there were no rules. Tell students that the founders of our country created the plan for how our new government would be organized. Our new nation needed rules or laws, just as our homes and schools need rules.
2. Show students the "Our Constitution" PowerPoint presentation.
3. Possible discussion questions include:
 - Why do you think the men at the Constitutional Convention felt they should have a written constitution?
 - Why do you think the men chose George Washington to be president of the Constitutional Convention?
 - Do you think it was easy or difficult for all of the men to agree about how the government would be organized? Why?
 - Why do you think a bill of rights was so important to so many people?
 - Why do you think they have the Constitution on display in Washington, D.C.?

4. To conclude the lesson, explain to students that they will be given a card with a picture, title, or description of a person, place or thing related to the Constitutional Convention. Distribute a section of the Constitutional Convention cards to each student.
5. Have students stand and then tell them to find their matches. A match consists of a picture, title, and description that go together. After all matches have been made, ask each group to share the picture, title, and description with the class.
6. Alternative Strategies:
 - Make duplicate copies of the picture cards and have individual students or pairs of students play concentration with the cards.
 - Make copies of the picture cards and title cards and play concentration by matching the pictures with the correct titles.

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students read *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* by Jean Fritz. Students should then create a booklet containing 10 interesting facts about the Constitutional Convention. They may include illustrations. Books should contain an appropriate cover, title page, and also be bound so that everyone in the class can enjoy them.

Constitutional Convention Cards



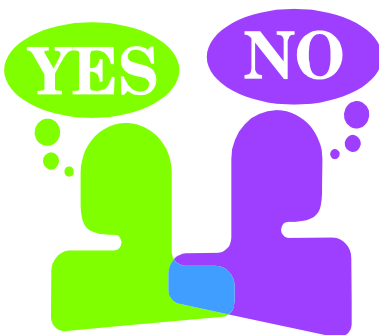
Independence
Hall

Where the
Constitution
was written



National
Archives

Where you
can see the
Constitution
today



Vote

To show your
choice or
opinion about
something or
someone



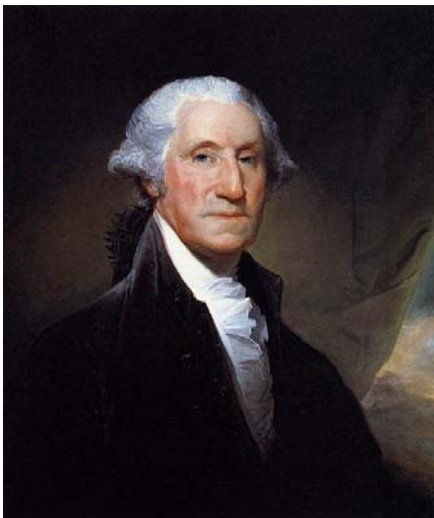
Constitution

A list of rules and laws that explain what our government can and cannot do



Constitutional Convention

A special meeting that was held to write the Constitution



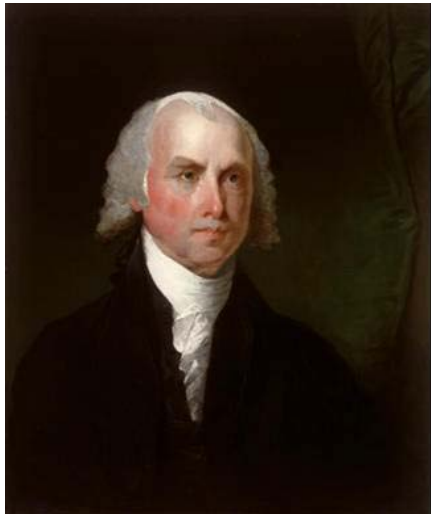
George Washington

Chosen the leader of the Constitutional Convention



Benjamin
Franklin

Oldest man at
the
Constitutional
Convention



James
Madison

Wrote down
everything that
was said at the
Constitutional
Convention



Secret

Kept private
and not open
to anyone
else