

Primary Source Lesson Plan

Subject Area: History

Grade Level: 8th

Objective: Learners will demonstrate knowledge of/understanding of/ability to:

- Interpret primary source documents in historical context
- Analyze changes in the final drafts of the Constitution
- Describe the evolution of the Bill of Rights
- Compare issues facing the Continental Congress and present-day Congress
- Analyze how Congress, under the Constitution, responds to contemporary issues

Content Standard: (California - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/standards/>)

History 8.1, 8.2, 8.3

Technology Standard: (NETS for Students - http://cnets.iste.org/students/s_stands.html)

- Technology productivity tools
- Technology communication tools
- Technology research tools
- Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools

Primary Sources Used as Resources:

1. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/constitu/memory.html>
2. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/constitu/articles.html>
3. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/constitu/res21feb.html>
4. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/constitu/detail.html>

Lesson Activities: What will the students do? How will you use primary sources to meet your lesson objectives?

1. Students will examine report from the Committee of Detail which was assigned the task of drafting the Constitution reached at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
2. Students will investigate the addition of the first ten amendments to the Constitution by the First Congress.
3. Students will examine perennial issues-veterans' benefits, the national debt, and terrorism-confronting Congress.
4. Students examine proclamations calling for a day of thanksgiving and a day of remembrance to honor soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Assessment: In what ways will the use of the primary sources promote student learning?

1. Students will debate the efficacy of having the president elected for one term of seven years as opposed to the present constitutional limitation of two four year terms established by the twenty-second amendment.
2. Students will debate the proposition: Resolved, the inclusion of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution was necessary and prudent.

Reflection: How would these activities fit in your overall lesson planning?

These activities would fit into my lesson planning very nicely. My classes really like to talk and argue about different topics. I have a very opinionated class. They are very interested in how the United States was formed and what the foundation was based on. These activities would incorporate all the aspects of learning. It would benefit all the students in the class.