



Media Center Materials:

Hayman, LeRoy. What you should know about the U.S. Constitution and the men who wrote it. New York, : Four Winds Press, [c1966]. **Call # 342 Hay** A history of the Constitutional Convention, with capsule biographies of its significant contributors and an examination of the conflicts, controversies, and compromises which resulted in the document which is the foundation of our government today.

Morris, Richard Brandon, 1904-. The first book of the Constitution. New York : Franklin Watts, 1958. **Call # 342 Mor** Discusses the writing of the Constitution and includes a short outline. Also includes a discussion of the weaknesses of confederation government and descriptions of the founding fathers.

Prolman, Marilyn. The Story of the Constitution. Children's Press, c1969. **Call # 342 Pro**

Fritz, Jean. Shh! We're Writing the Constitution. Weston Woods, c1990. **Call # VCT 342.2 Shh** Video is the story of how the Constitution of the United States of America was created. In 1786, delegates were sent to Philadelphia to try to rework the Articles of the Confederation as a basis for our federal government. The story outlines the personalities of people including George Washington, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin who were instrumental in creating this important document.

America Rock. Scholastic Rock, Inc. : c1995. **Call # VCT 973 Ame** Video presents topics about American history and government in the form of songs which are fun for the student to learn. Topics on this video include: No more kings - the founding of America, fireworks - The Declaration of Independence. The shot heard 'round the world - the start of the revolution, the preamble The Constitution, elbow room - the pioneers opening the west, the great American melting pot - the ethnic diversity of America, mother necessity - great American inventors, sufferin' til suffrage - women's rights to vote, I'm just a bill - how a bill becomes a law, and three-ring government - the judicial, legislative and executive branches.

*****Encyclopedia Articles are also available.*****



Web Resources:

The Constitution Day, Inc. website has a number of suggestions and activities that you can do with students. Included on this website is a video that explains Constitution Day that can be used with students. See me for help with this.

<http://www.constitutionday.com/>

The National Constitution Center provides free and easy-to-use lesson plans for educators.

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ForEducators/LessonPlans/index.shtml>

Colorado Council for the Social Studies website provides a list of links to helpful websites in preparing for Constitution Day and integrating plans for the day into lessons.

http://www.coloradosocialstudies.org/Current%20News_files/constitution_day_preparation.htm

EdHelper.com has a wealth of fun Constitution Day activities, including puzzles, a play, comprehension activities, and much more!

http://www.edhelper.com/Constitution_Day.htm



Constitution Day Teaching Resources

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****Please see me if you need any additional resources or if you need any help implementing these resources into your classroom and lesson plans.****





United Streaming Resources:

[Almost Painless Guide to the U.S. Constitution, The](#) (21:12)

Amusing co-hosts Harlan and Marie lead us step by step through the document that forms the basis of our governments. Students will learn about the ideals of American **Constitutional** government, the theory of the “We the People,” and the concepts laid out by the Preamble. We’ll also discuss how the **Constitution** empowers the government to fulfill its responsibilities, while at the same time limiting those powers. The Bill of Rights and the amendments are also covered in detail.

[Blackline Masters](#) [Teacher’s Guide](#) [Curriculum Standards](#)

Grade: 3-5   © 1999 United Learning

This video contains [10 segments](#)

[Sssshhhh! We're Writing the Constitution!](#) (31:00)

This title from the Jean Fritz Collection of historic books for young people is illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Jean Fritz introduces elementary and middle school students to the delegates at the 1787 summer convention in Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison, and many others traveled there to draft a plan that would unify their states while preserving their sovereignty. Part of the Weston Woods Series.

[Teacher's Guide](#)


Grade: 3-5 © 1987 Weston Woods

This video contains [17 segments](#)

[America At Its Best: The American Government](#) (15:00)

This program begins with an introduction of how America began - Columbus's voyage to the New World, the establishment of the 13 colonies, and the colonies' struggle for independence - and then focuses on the make up of the American government. Why are rules important for a community? Why is organization important? Our government has guides and rules such as the Constitution and the Bill of Rights that protect Americans' freedoms and rights. There are structures, such as the Supreme Court, Congress, and the executive branch of the government, that are set up to help keep America running successfully and smoothly. The structures and documents of the American government are made clear in ways children can understand.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Blackline Masters](#) [Curriculum Standards](#)

Grade: 3-5  © 2003 United Learning

This video contains [8 segments](#)

[TLC Elementary School: Understanding American Values](#) (24:26)

This program explores the American values of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and patriotism in the U.S. and other countries.

[Curriculum Standards](#)

Grade: K-4 © 2006 Discovery Channel School

This video contains [12 segments](#)

[TLC Elementary School: Understanding Government](#) (24:16)

Examine the structure and values of American government by exploring the rules in our daily lives and the reasons for them, as well as the rules and reasons behind our government.

Grade: K-4 © 2006 Discovery Channel School

This video contains [4 segments](#)

[Founding of Our Federal Government](#) (20:00)

While George Washington was leading the Continental Army against the British, Thomas Jefferson was writing the Declaration of Independence, the document that would be used to declare America's separation from England. Meet these two men and others who played a critical role in the planning and establishment of the United States government and its three branches. Then explore the country's Constitution and the relatively few changes made to it in the ensuing centuries.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Curriculum Standards](#)

Grade: 2-5 © 2001 100% Educational Videos

This video contains [7 segments](#)

[TLC Elementary School: Understanding Good Citizenship](#) (24:15)

Explore the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy and the factors to consider in selecting leaders.

[Teacher's Guide](#)

Grade: K-4 © 2006 Discovery Channel School

This video contains [4 segments](#)

[TLC Elementary School: American Diversity](#) (24:23)

Explore the shape of American society, including how immigration, diversity, and geography affect our government.

[Teacher's Guide](#)

Grade: 5-8 © 2006 Discovery Channel School

This video contains [7 segments](#)

[America the Beautiful](#) (04:00)

This program shows some of the great symbols of the United States of America.

[Curriculum Standards](#)

Grade: 3-5 © 2001 United Learning

This video contains [12 segments](#)