

The Fight For Our New Constitution

Middle/ Junior High School US History and Civics

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources;
- synthesize evidence from primary and secondary sources;
- create diagrams and pictures to determine characteristics of people, places, or events; and
- access a variety of media, including online resources.

Standards

- Virginia: USI.7b** Articles of Confederation; Constitutional Convention; Influence on the Bill of Rights
- CE.2b** Influence of Earlier Documents on the Constitution of the United States
- CE6.a,b** Structure of the National Government; Separation of Powers

- National: NSS-C.5-8.3** Principles of Democracy
- NSS-USH.5-12.3 Era 3** Revolution & the New Nation (1754-1820s)

Approx. Time: Two 90 minute blocks or four 45 minute blocks

HOOK: Two students are arguing over a touchdown in a football game they are playing. To settle the play, one student suggests that his team should decide if the touchdown is good or not. The other student suggests that HIS team should decide if the touchdown is good or not. Who should decide? What problems do you see with this? What might help to fix the problem? Should there be a referee?

This was one of the problems with the Articles of Confederation—no national judiciary (judicial branch) to referee or to settle disputes between the states. Any disputes had to be settled in state courts. The concern was that a state court may favor its citizens over citizens of another state.

So we need a ref! At the Constitutional Convention, the delegates decide that the referee should be a new constitution with enough power to keep the country running but not so powerful as to be a bully to the states.

Today, you will be creating a colorful invitation to invite delegates to the Constitutional Convention. First, you will need to answer some questions about the Constitutional Convention by using the internet.

I Sneak Peek: Watch *Justice in the Classroom* Chapter Two to preview what you will learn! (Approx. 8 minutes)