

The Fight For Our New Constitution

Create a Constitutional Convention Invitation! — TEACHER KEY

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! You have been chosen to design an invitation to the Constitutional Convention. You need to create a colorful invitation to be sent to delegates explaining to them what they will be doing at the convention.

You need to include:

1. Why they are meeting? (mention some weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation)
2. Where they are meeting (**Philadelphia**)
3. When they are meeting (**May 5, 1787**)
4. Who is in charge (**George Washington**)
5. How will they balance power between small and large states (**Great Compromise**)
6. Who was the "Father of the Constitution" (**James Madison**)
7. What the new government will look like (**3 branches**)
8. How many states will be needed to ratify it (**9/13**)
9. Provide a quote from John Marshall showing his support for the Constitution.

You also need to include AT LEAST one picture or symbol and 3 colors. Make it creative and eye-catching so delegates will be excited to attend!

Constitution Family Tree: Discovering the Roots of the US Constitution

Students will use primary source documents or excerpts from documents to identify similarities in the US Constitution and match the document/passage to the Article or Amendment in the Constitution.

The documents being interpreted are:

1. The Charter of the Virginia Company of London
2. The Virginia Declaration of Rights
3. The Declaration of Independence
4. The Articles of Confederation
5. The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom

Struggling Students: Allow these students to use the excerpts to help them pinpoint and focus on the passages they need to interpret. Also have them work in pairs or small groups. Provide as much guidance as possible.

Advanced Learners: Allow these students to use the links listed below for the primary source documents to find the passages they need to identify as direct influences of the Constitution. They may also work in pairs or small groups to facilitate finding the information and to discuss the meaning of the passages.

Post Assessment: One Plus One Equal Ten: Students will see how the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom influenced the Bill of Rights by matching sections of the documents to the corresponding amendments in the Bill of Rights.

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Technology: Links to primary documents (texts also attached, except the Constitution):

I Charter of the Virginia Company of London: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va01.asp

I Virginia Declaration of Rights: <http://www.history.org/almanack/life/politics/varights.cfm>

I Declaration of Independence:

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

I Articles of Confederation: <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=3&page=transcript>

I Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom:

<https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/virginia-statute-religious-freedom>

I John Marshall's Speech On the Federal Constitution at the Virginia Ratifying Convention:

<http://www.bartleby.com/268/8/21.html>

I US Constitution: <http://constitution.findlaw.com>