



Get To Know The Constitution

Intermediate — Middle School

Time Allocated: Two class periods

Correlation to the Alabama High School Graduation Exam:

Standard I, Objective 1

Standard II, Objectives 1 & 2

Standard III, Objective 1

Correlation to the Alabama Course of Study:

United States Studies — Fifth Grade Objectives: 29

Citizenship Objectives — Seventh Grade: 1 & 2

Lesson Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Identify the Constitution as the plan of government for the United States.
2. Explain that the Constitution provides for three branches of government
3. Understand that the Constitution contains a Preamble, seven Articles and twenty-seven Amendments.

Materials Needed:

1. Excerpts from *Shh... We're Writing the Constitution*, Jean Fritz
2. The Constitution for the United States of America (See Appendix, or in textbook)
3. **Handout:** Constitution Search

Major Instructional Sequence:

1. Refer to the discussion of the previous day concerning rules and James Madison's quotation.
2. Read selected excerpts from *Shh... We're Writing the Constitution* to give the students an idea of the reasons a constitution was needed, the Founding Fathers who were involved, the conditions (length of time it took, the weather, the place — Philadelphia, disagreements and compromises, etc.)
3. Provide each student with a copy of the Constitution (Refer to text, or make copies from curriculum guide).
4. Discuss the way the Constitution is organized (Preamble, Articles, Amendments, etc.).
5. Divide the class into small groups. Each student should be given a copy of the **Handout:** "Constitution Search." Students groups should work together and refer to the Constitution to complete "Constitution Search".

Closure or Evaluation:

The handouts may be collected for evaluation and feedback, or they may be used for discussion and clarification.