

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Constitution Scavenger Hunt **From Kristen Blore**

Grade – 8th grade

Length of class period – 45 minutes

Inquiry – What is in our Constitution?

Objectives –

Students will investigate and explore the United State Constitution as an introduction to the document.

Materials –

Copy of United States Constitution
Scavenger Hunt Sheet

Activities –

This activity should be used as an introduction to what is in the Constitution. I have found over the years that students really have very little idea of the details in the document. After studying the preamble and identifying the principles of the Constitution, I like to have the students complete the scavenger hunt so they spend some time with the document. Only after that will we get into federalists and anti-federalists debates, etc.

Warm Up – What kind of laws/information is in the Constitution? List what you believe to be in the document.

Group Activity – Divide students into partners or small groups. Give each group a copy of the Constitution. For eighth grade, I prefer to use our copy in the text book that also offers an explanation in more modern language as to what is being said. Also hand out a copy of the scavenger hunt. I have provided two versions, depending on ability of students. One is an ordered version of the questions – in other words students work their way through the Constitution article by article. The other is random, which allows students to jump around a bit. Allow students time to explore and find the answers.

Wrap – Up – As groups finish the scavenger hunt, hand out the wrap up questions. Have them think about and reflect on what they have discovered by answering the questions.

Class Discussion – Gather class together. Discuss findings and wrap up questions. Use this as a jumping off point for further discussion of the Constitution.

How will you assess what students learned during this lesson?

Informally – class discussion and small group discussion

Formally – completion of worksheet

CT Framework Performance Standards

- **Differentiate the functions of the United States three branches of government**
- **access and gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources**
- **interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources**
- **demonstrate the ability to participate in social studies discourse through informed discussion, debate and effective oral presentation**

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Wrap-Up: Constitutional Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Now evaluate what you have learned about the Constitution. Answer the following questions using evidence from the Constitution to support your response.

1. What is your initial reaction or thoughts regarding what you just read in the Constitution?
2. Explain something that surprised you in the Constitution. Why did it surprise you?
3. What do you think is the most important idea or law in the Constitution? Why?
4. Do you think anything should be added to the Constitution? What would it be and why should it be added?

Name _____

Date _____

Constitution Scavenger Hunt (ordered)

Article I

Section 1 – Who has the power to make all laws?

Section 2 – How old do you have to be to be elected to the House of Representatives?

- On what is representation based in the House of Representatives?

Section 3 – How many senators are there from each state?

- How long is a senator's term?
- How old must a person be to serve as a senator?

Section 6 – Can a member of Congress hold another government job at the same time?

Section 7 - If a President does not approve of a bill passed by Congress, what can he do?

- If Congress really wants the bill that the President does not approve, what can they do?

Section 8 - List 4 powers Congress holds.

- What is the elastic clause?

Section 9 – Who provides the money to pay for programs and policies in our country?

- Can Congress name someone a prince or duke?

Section 10 – What part of our government has the Constitution given all powers of foreign policy and national defense?

Article II

Section 1 – Who is given executive power?

- What are the restrictions on being President?

- Can the President get a raise while in office?

Section 2 and 3 – List five of the President's powers.

Section 4 – What reasons does the Constitution give for impeaching a President?

Article III

Section 1 – How long does a Supreme Court Justice or federal court judge serve?

Section 2 – What is judicial review?

Section 3 – How does a person commit treason against the U.S?

- Can that person's family also be punished?

Article IV

Section 1 – Does a state have to respect the laws of another state?

Section 2 – Do citizens of CT visiting MA have the same rights?

Article V

What is an amendment?

Is it difficult or easy to amend the constitution?

How many amendments have been added to our Constitution?

Article VI

What is considered the highest law of our land?

Article VII

How many states had to ratify (vote to support) the Constitution before it became law?

Name _____

Date _____

Constitution Scavenger Hunt (random)

1. Article I Section 1 – Who has the power to make all laws?
2. Article VII - How many states had to ratify (vote to support) the Constitution before it became law?
3. Article II Section 1 – To who does the Constitution give executive power?
4. Article III Section 1 – How long does a Supreme Court Justice or federal court judge serve?
5. Article III Section 2 - What is judicial review?
6. Article I Section 2 – How old do you have to be to be elected to the House of Representatives?
7. Article I Section 2 - On what is representation based in the House of Representatives?
8. Article III Section 3 – How does a person commit treason against the U.S?
9. Article III Section 3 - Can the family of a person convicted of treason also be punished?
10. Article I Section 3 – How many senators are there from each state?
11. Article I Section 3 - How long is a senator's term?
12. Article I Section 3 - How old must a person be to serve as a senator?
13. Article VI – What is considered the highest law of our land?
14. Article I Section 9 - What is an ex post facto law? Can Congress make one?
15. Article I Section 9 - Can Congress name someone a prince or duke?
16. Article II Section 1 - What are the restrictions on being President?

17. Article II Section 1 - Can the President get a raise while in office?
18. Article II Section 4 – What reasons does the Constitution give for impeaching a President?
19. Article II Section 2 and 3 – List five of the President's powers.
20. Article I Section 6 - Can a member of Congress hold another government job at the same time? Why or why not?
21. Article V - What is an amendment? Is it difficult or easy to add an amendment to the Constitution?
22. Article V - How many amendments have been added to our Constitution?
23. Article I Section 7 - If a President does not approve of a bill passed by Congress, what can he do?
24. Article I Section 7 - If Congress really wants the bill that the President does not approve, what can they do?
25. Article I Section 8 - List 4 powers Congress holds.
26. Article I Section 8 - What is the elastic clause?
27. Article IV Section 1 – Does a state have to respect the laws of another state?
28. Article IV Section 2 – Do citizens of CT visiting MA have the same rights?

Bonus

Article II Section 4 - Which 2 Presidents have been impeached? (This is tricky – the right answer is NOT given directly in what you are reading.)