



LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

LESSON 2.1

Fundamental Principles

Overview

Objective:

Students will be able to: identify and explain the fundamental principles that guided the creation of America's constitutional democracy.

Essential Question(s):

What ideas guided the U.S. founders to structure American government the way they did?

Standards:

From the 2023 Standards:

CE.1 The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the foundations of the American constitutional democracy by

- a. explaining the fundamental principles of limited government, republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, and popular sovereignty;

From the 2015 Standards:

CE.2 The student will apply social science skills to understand the foundations of American constitutional government by

- a. explaining the fundamental principles of consent of the governed, limited government, rule of law, democracy, and representative government;

National Council for Social Studies Standards:

TBD

Vocabulary:

checks and balances, consent, consent of the governed, democracy, direct democracy, federalism, govern, indirect democracy, limited government, popular sovereignty, representative government, republicanism, rule of law, separation of powers

Essential Knowledge: *(from the 2015 curriculum framework)*

Fundamental political principles

- consent of the governed: citizens give authority to the government in exchange for the protection of their rights.
- limited government: government is not all-powerful and may do only those things the people have given it the power to do.
- rule of law: everyone, including government officials, must follow the law.
- democracy: in a democratic system of government, the people rule.
- representative government: in a representative system of government, the people elect public officeholders to make laws and conduct government on the people's behalf.

Engage

BELLRINGER: PREDICT

Students will write, outline, or illustrate the answer to the following question: What makes a government "good?" Ask for volunteers to share out.

HOOK: BUILD THE FOUNDATION

Students will work in groups with various types of materials to build a foundation strong enough to hold the weight. Afterwards, students will discuss the importance of a proper foundation and how that applies to government. This exercise can be used to introduce the idea that the principles and documents they will learn about became the foundation of American government.

SIMULATION: CREATE YOUR OWN NATION

Students will work in groups to create their own nations. Each group will create a name, flag, and constitution for their new nation. Afterwards, students will discuss what ideas/principles were important to include and how they made decisions as a group. Can be used to introduce the ideas and documents that the founders used to create the American government.

Explain



SLIDES

Students will complete the guided notes for their interactive notebook as the teacher provides direct instruction.

Explore

HEADLINES

Students will be separated into groups. Groups will be given a set of headlines to read and decide which principle is connected. After discussing as a group, discuss with the whole class. More than one principle may apply to headlines. Great opportunity for the teacher to explain concepts further.

MATCHING SETS

Each student will be given a card with either the principle, its definition, or an example on it. Students must walk around and talk to classmates until they find the other students in their set. At first, students may disagree on who goes with which set. Allow for discussion, and the teacher may help. After finding all the correct sets, mix up the cards and pass them out again. For the second time, time students to see how quickly they can complete the sets. Activity can be repeated with different challenges (within a time limit, no talking, etc ...).

GALLERY WALK

Five different articles will be hung around the classroom. Students will work in groups to complete the handout at each station. This activity will connect real life situations to the fundamental principles. Afterwards, groups will share their thoughts on each station with the whole class.

Elaborate

JOURNAL

Ask students to write at least one paragraph answering one of the following questions:

1. Which principle is most important and why?
2. Is there any principle that was not needed? Explain their thinking.
3. Is there a principle they think should have been added, but wasn't?

REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS: WEBQUEST

Students will go to a news website and hunt for current event articles that connect to each of the principles.

Evaluate

GAME REVIEW

Kahoot! Question Set ([link to come](#))
Quizizz Question Set ([link to come](#))

EXIT TICKET

5-question review students complete before exiting the classroom

