

**Making of a Great Nation
US Constitution
Unit Plan for Grade Five
By Robin Geggatt**

INTRODUCTION:

TIME FRAME: Three 60-minute class periods.
Entire unit will be taught over a two to three week period.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to...

- to interpret primary documents
- to identify the major figures and issues involved with the US Constitution
- to discuss the issues that faced the Founding Fathers in writing the US Constitution

MA STATE STANDARDS:

5.18 Describe the life and achievements of important leaders during the Revolutions and the early year of the United States. (H,C)

5.19 Identify the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including its date, its primary author (John Adams), and the basic rights it gives to citizens of the Commonwealth. (C)

5.20 Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781 and for its later failure. (H, C)

5.21 Describe Shay's Rebellion of 1786-1787 and explain why it was one of the crucial events leading to the Constitutional Convention. (H, E, C)

5.22 Identify the various leaders of the Constitutional Convention and describe the major issues they debated. (H, E, C)

5.23 Describe the responsibilities of government at the federal, state, and local levels (e.g., protection of individual rights and the provision of services such as law enforcement and the building and funding of schools). (C)

5.24 Describe the basic political principles of American democracy and explain how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights reflect and preserve these principles. (C)

BACKGROUND/PREPARATION: Students will have been instructed and have an understanding of the struggles and problems leading up to and including the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence and what declaring independence meant, the Articles of Confederation and the unstable federal issues it could not solve, as well as Shay's Rebellion. They will have an understanding of slavery and the differing opinions of the northern and southern states. They will be familiar with the convention held at Annapolis before the convention held in Philadelphia. They will also know about the Founding Fathers and other leading figures of this time period. They will have knowledge of the contents of the Massachusetts State Constitution, and its' writer, John Adams.

PROCEDURE: Reading short stories

DOCUMENTS

United States Constitution

Bill of Rights

Selected Correspondence letters

Federalist Papers #10

Anti Federalist

Classroom activities Making a Super Pop-up report

Homework assignments

Unit Rational

Assessment

ENDNOTES:

Second Unit is on the ratification process of the US Constitution.

5.17 Describe the major battles of the Revolution and explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat. (H)

5.25 Identify the three branches of the United States government as outlined by the Constitution, describe their functions and relationships, and identify what features of the Constitution were unique at the time (e.g., the presidency and the independent judiciary). (H, C)

5.26 Identify the rights in the Bill of Rights and explain the reasons for its inclusion in the Constitution in 1791. (H, C)

Biography of:

Alexander Hamilton

George Washington

James Madison

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

Gouverneur Morris

Henry Knox

Books:

The Origins of American Constitution

Federalist Papers

Anti Federalist Papers

Children's book list

Websites

<http://ushistory.org/documents/constitution.htm>

<http://www.usconstitution.net/csa.html>

<http://www.usconstitution.com/>

<http://www.usconstitution.com/constitutiontimeline.htm>

<http://www.usconstitution.com/constitutiontimeline.htm>
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html>
<http://ushistory.org/>