

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like a political scientist and create a political cartoon to make a claim about the Constitutional Convention and failures of the Articles of Confederation.

Activity

Step 1: Background Information on Political Scientists and Constitutional Convention (20 min)

- Show [Video: Constitutional Convention](#).
- Explain to students that political scientists study politics and governments related to different civilizations and countries throughout time.
- Ask students why it is important for political scientists to study politics and government throughout time. For example, we can make claims about ancient civilizations by looking at artifacts that teach us about laws they had, how punishment was given, and whether there were leaders that had power over others. Having governments and political systems is the sign of an advanced civilization. Political scientists also study modern-day politics and governments to analyze how countries are similar and different.
- As a class, discuss why political scientists analyze key historical events, like the Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention.
- Provide students with [Handout: Failures of the Articles of Confederation](#). Ask students what they think the consequences were of each failure. Discuss how the central government lacked control and the ability to make or enforce laws for the country. Have students take notes on their handout about how each failure hurt the United States.
- Next, provide students with [Handout: Sources on the Constitutional Convention](#). Explain to students that this handout has primary and secondary sources on it that talk about the Constitutional Convention. Review the handout.
- Next, explain to students that after political scientists analyze an event, they make a claim. A claim is an argument or statement backed up by evidence. Discuss how a claim can be disputed. For example, "The sky is blue," is not a claim because this statement is a widely accepted fact that people don't have differing opinions on. However, the statement, "Technology distracts kids while learning," is a claim because it can be disputed. People have different opinions on whether technology enhances or distracts learning.
- Explain to students that once political scientists make a claim, they often will publish their claim in a journal or book. That way, others can read about their claim.
- Some political scientists also create political cartoons. Ask students if they have heard of a political cartoon before. Explain that a political cartoon is an image that makes a claim about an event or issue that relates to politics. Show [Handout: Examples of Political Cartoons](#). Ask students what they think the claim in each cartoon is. Discuss how the cartoons use images and limited words to make a claim.

Step 2: Making a Political Cartoon (30 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will make their own cartoon that makes a claim about the Constitutional Convention and failures of the Articles of Confederation. Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Make a Political Cartoon](#).

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Customer Service, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.



Political Scientist: Failures of the Articles of Confederation

- Review the handout as a class.
- Have students create their cartoons.
- As students are working, ask the following:
 - What would happen if political scientists never made claims about history?
 - How would you run the Constitutional Convention differently if you were in charge (e.g., have a more diverse representation)
 - Why do you think political scientists use cartoons to make their claims?
- When students are finished creating their cartoons, have volunteers present their cartoons to the class.
 - Teacher note: Students can complete political cartoons for homework if you run out of time.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Constitutional Convention
- Handout: Failures on the Articles of Confederation
- Handout: Sources on the Constitutional Convention
- Handout: Examples of Political Cartoons
- Handout: Steps to Create a Political Cartoon

Not provided:

- No additional materials needed

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