

# Political Scientist: Importance of the Constitutional Convention

## Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like a political scientist and create a political cartoon to talk about the Constitutional Convention.

## Activity

### Step 1: Background Information on Constitutional Convention (15 min)

- Show [Video: Importance of the Constitutional Convention](#).
- As a class, review why the Constitutional Convention is important. Discuss how the Constitutional Convention was a series of meetings over the course of 4 months. Men who attended the meeting, called delegates, met to fix the Articles of Confederation and create a new government for the United States.
- Next, show [Handout: Learning about the Constitutional Convention](#). Explain to students that the images listed are examples of primary and secondary sources that can be used to understand the Constitutional Convention. Ask students why they think political scientists and other professionals would look at primary and secondary sources to learn about an event.
- As a class, read through the sources. Then, discuss the following:
  - Why is it a problem that only white men were at the Constitutional Convention?
  - Why did the Constitutional Convention last so long? (e.g., it takes a long time to make rules for an entire country)
  - What were some of the topics that men disagreed on at the Constitutional Convention? (e.g., how much power states and the central government should have, how much power small states and big states should have)

### Step 2: Background on Political Scientists (8 minutes)

- Explain to students that political scientists study political systems and governments. Some political scientists study modern-day governments, like the government that the United States has or that China has today. Other political scientists study governments from the past. For example, a political scientist might study how the United States' government was founded.
- Next, explain to students that political scientists make claims. A claim is an argument that not everyone agrees with. But, the claim can be backed up by evidence. For example, a political scientist could make the claim that a democracy is a better government system than a monarchy. This is a statement that some may agree with and some may disagree with. Political scientists also have evidence that shows countries with democracies have happier citizens and better economies than monarchies.
- Next, explain that some political scientists will write their claims in books or articles that are published online. That way, other people can read their claims. Some political scientists also create political cartoons that talk about their claims.
- Ask students if they have heard of a political cartoon. Explain that a political cartoon is an image that makes a point about an issue or an event.
- Show [Handout: Political Cartoon #1](#). As a class, review what this cartoon means. Discuss how the cartoon is making a point about the importance of voting.
- Optional: Show [Handout: Political Cartoon #2](#). This cartoon talks about weaknesses from the Articles of Confederation.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Customer Service, at [allison@rozzylearningcompany.com](mailto:allison@rozzylearningcompany.com) or 314-272-2560 with questions.

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## Step 3: Creating a Political Cartoon (15+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will create their own political cartoon about the Constitutional Convention.
- Provide students with [Handout:: Steps to Create a Cartoon](#). As a class, read through the steps.
- In addition, provide students with a copy of [Handout: Learning about the Constitutional Convention](#). Students will need to reference the sources while they create their cartoon.
- Have students follow the steps to create their own cartoon.
- When the class finishes creating their cartoons, have students volunteer to present their cartoons.

## Materials List

### Provided online:

- Video: Importance of the Constitutional Convention
- Handout: Learning about the Constitutional Convention
- Handout: Political Cartoon #1
- Handout: Political Cartoon #2
- Handout: Steps to Create a Cartoon

### Not provided:

- No other materials are needed

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