

Amending the US Constitution

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Grade Level: 8th grade

Subject/Course: South Carolina History

Time/Duration: One 60 minute class period

Overview/Description: Students will complete a webquest to explore the history and process of amending the United States Constitution

Standards 8-3.3: Explain the basic principles of government as established in the United States Constitution.

Objectives/Goals Objective: The Constitution is sometimes referred to as a “living document”. Students will participate in a webquest to identify the context of this statement. Students will identify the process to amend the Constitution. They will draft mock legislation and utilize the amendment process to create an original amendment.

Materials: Webquest Worksheet, computer with internet access

Instruction/Demonstration: This lesson will be a follow-up to instruction on the US Constitution and the basic principles of the constitution.

Activity: Webquest

Links: included within webquest document

Assessment/Evaluation: Successful completion of webquest with 80% accuracy

Amending the Constitution Webquest

Standard Addressed: 8-3.3 Explain the basic principles of government as established in the United States Constitution.

Objective: The Constitution is sometimes referred to as a “living document”. Students will participate in a webquest to identify the context of this statement. Students will identify the process to amend the Constitution. They will draft mock legislation and utilize the amendment process to create an original amendment.

Please answer the following questions using the links provided in the space below each question.

1. Define ratify. www.dictionary.com
2. Define amend (in reference to a constitution). www.dictionary.com
3. What is the Bill of Rights? <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/>
4. How many amendments are there to The Constitution of the United States of America? <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h926.html>
5. Why is it necessary to amend the US Constitution? <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/constitution/>
6. What is the process used to amend the US Constitution? http://www.jcfaf.org/storage/constitutional-study-guide-pdfs/Amending_the_Constitution-HO.pdf
7. Have there been amendments proposed to the US Constitution that have not been ratified? If so, what were some of the proposed amendments? <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-amendments/proposed-amendments/>
8. Which three amendments were a result of the outcome of the Civil War and DIRECTLY relate to the institution of slavery? <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-amendments/amendments-in-history/>

9. What amendment was passed and then later repealed by the passing of an additional amendment? <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-amendments/amendments-in-history/>

10. Why was the first amendment mentioned in number nine not just eliminated? Why was it necessary to have an additional amendment to replace that amendment? (refer to the answer for number six on this sheet)

11. What amendment gives women the right to vote?
<http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-amendments/amendments-in-history/>

12. Why did a president change his position on the amendment in number eleven after a world war? <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/president-woodrow-wilson-speaks-in-favor-of-female-suffrage>

13. In your opinion, what current amendment is the most important? Why?

14. In your opinion, what amendment needs to be changed? Why?

15. Draft the wording for a new amendment that you feel needs to be added to the US Constitution.

16. Study the amendment flashcards and then play the amendment quiz. Show your teacher your results to receive credit for this question. <http://quizlet.com/392106/amendments-simplified-flash-cards/>

Bonus: What current amendment to the US Constitution that is NOT included in the Bill of Rights was originally proposed at the same time as the Bill of Rights? Who proposed it then? This site does contain the answer, but YOU will need to search to find it! <http://www.thisnation.com/>