

Primary Focus of Lesson: Constitutional Convention (two days)

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Length of Lesson: 30 minutes

Georgia Performance Standards:

SS4H5: The student will analyze the challenges faced by the nation.

- b. Identify the major leaders of the Constitutional Convention (James Madison and Benjamin Franklin) and describe the major issues they debated, including the rights of states, the Great Compromise, and slavery.

Lesson Objective(s): - The student will be able to:

1. Identify the major leaders of the Constitutional Convention (James Madison and Benjamin Franklin) and describe the major issues they debated, including the rights of states, the Great Compromise, and slavery.

Essential Question: “What are the major issues that were debated in the Constitutional Convention?”

Assessment of Objectives:

Students will participate in a simulation of the Constitutional Convention, and after having three plans presented to them there, will explain why Connecticut’s “Great Compromise” best serves the government’s purpose.

Introduction:

1. Beforehand prepare student invitations to Philadelphia’s Constitutional Convention. Also choose three groups of two students each ahead of time to represent state plans of Virginia, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Have them read about their plan (Plans of Government Worksheet) and decide how to present it to the rest of the class.

Teaching Procedures/Strategies:

2. Hand out invitations to students and designate an area of the room where the convention is to be held. Have students pair up until there are thirteen different groups to represent thirteen colonies.

3. Lead groups to set area convention will be held. Tell students that they are going to represent delegates that were chosen to attend the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Inform delegates that they were asked to attend because presently under the current Articles of Confederation, the government has been experiencing several problems. Ask students if they can share what any of these problems are (remind them of previous lesson if need be). Ask students if they feel the need for a new government. Take a vote from students about whether or not a new plan for government needs to be formed.