



North Carolina Constitution Word Quest

Overview

Students will analyze the North Carolina Constitution and deepen their understanding of governmental organization in our state by taking notes on the document and completing a "NC Constitution Word Quest" using the Civic Education Consortium's NC Pocket Constitution. This lesson can be used as an introductory activity to the NC Constitution or as an EOC review activity.

Grade

10

Course

Civics and Economics

North Carolina Standard Course of Study

- Objective 3.01 – Identify principles in the North Carolina Constitution.
- Objective 3.02 – Explain how the NC Constitution defines the framework, organization, and structure of state and local government.
- Objective 3.03 – Explain how the state constitution grants and limits the authority of public officials and government agencies.
- Objective 3.04 – Describe how the state constitution may be changed and analyze the impact of specific changes.
- Objective 3.08 – Examine taxation and other revenue sources at the state and local level.
- Objective 3.09 – Describe the services provided by state and local government agencies and how funding is provided.

Essential Questions

- How does the North Carolina Constitution affect the framework, organization, and structure of state and local government?
- How is authority defined for public officials in the North Carolina Constitution?
- How can North Carolina's Constitution be changed? Who can change it?
- How are state agencies funded? Who makes such funding decisions?
- What services must the state provide according to the North Carolina Constitution?

Materials

- Understanding the NC Constitution, notes worksheet and key, attached
- "NC Constitution Word Quest!" worksheet and key, attached
- "NC Constitution Word Quest!!!" modified worksheet and key, attached (recommended for students with special learning needs)
- Class set of North Carolina Pocket Constitutions, available through the Civic Education Consortium: http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/civiced/publications/classroom_resources.php
- Prizes such as candy or homework passes (optional)
- NC Constitution Quiz and answer key, attached (optional)
- NC Constitution Homework, attached (optional)

Duration

Teachers with limited class time can omit either the notes worksheet or the Word Quest itself, choosing whichever activity they feel will most benefit their students in learning a comprehensive overview of the NC Constitution.

Procedure

Throw Down Your NC Constitutional Load!

1. As a warm-up, tell students that sometimes, we struggle with understanding founding, governmental documents such as the NC Constitution. Explain that they are going to learn to make what some might consider to be a complex document a little less daunting. Begin by asking students to unload everything they know (or think they know) about how the state government of North Carolina is organized. Ask them to take 3-4 minutes to write down all the state institutions and structures they can think of. (Teachers may need to solicit a few examples, such as the General Assembly, the office of the Governor, etc. to get students started.)

