

## Introduction to the Constitution

### Lesson Plan #1 in the unit

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Suggested grade level: Grade 5 or GT elementary students

Subject area: social studies

#### Learning Results/Common Core:

This is the unit's Learning Results Base

b. Identify and describe the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights as documents that establish government and protect the rights of the individual United States citizen.

Time required: 1 to 2 class periods( 45-90 mins)

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to observe, reflect and question a painting about the signing of the Constitution.

#### Materials and Resources Required:

Smartboard

Library of Congress Primary Sources Analysis Tool and the Teacher's Guide

Images from the Constitution Primary sources Collection. I used *the foundation of American government* by Henry Hintermeister

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3g02541>

(Attached)

Preparation Required:As this is the first lesson in a unit on the Constitution, there is little that needs to be discussed ahead of time however, it is advisable to practice analyzing other pictures/photographs prior to doing this lesson.

Teacher should review the Primary Sources Analysis Tool Teacher's Guide

#### Lesson Outline:

1. Teacher asks the students if they remember how to “observe, reflect, and question”. Review this if necessary.
2. Distribute copies of the analysis tool to each student and tell them that today they are going to do their own analysis of a famous painting.
3. Project an appropriate image. I suggest as it has famous faces that someone will recognize.

4. Start by asking students if anyone has an observation. Keep redirecting the conversation to the three words and tell them which it is that they are commenting on.
5. Have students complete the rest of the page on their own.
6. Ask for volunteers to share.
7. Tell the students that this is the beginning of a unit about this painting and we will be answering some of these questions during our study.

\* Return to this activity and image at the conclusion of the unit and ask if the questions have been answered . Are there any additional questions?

Assessment Summary:

Review the individual analysis tools to determine:

1. If students can observe, reflect and question.
2. Look for the depth of the reflection and questions to determine how you will teach this unit on the Constitution.