

Defense of Freedom and the Constitution Lesson Plan

10th Grade

 **10th Grade Lesson Plan (50 minutes)**

Topic: Constitutional Principles & Historical Context

 **Objective**

Students will:

- Analyze the development of the Constitution
 - Evaluate its strengths and compromises
 - Understand federalism and amendments
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 **Warm-Up (5 min)**

Prompt:

- “Is a strong government good or dangerous?”
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 **Lecture (15 min)**

Teach:

- Weaknesses of **Articles of Confederation**
- Constitutional Convention (1787)
- Key ideas:
 - Separation of powers
 - Federalism
 - Checks and balances

Discuss:

- Influences:

- John Locke → natural rights
 - Montesquieu → separation of powers
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Activity (15 min)

Primary Source Analysis

Students analyze:

- “We the People...”

Questions:

- What does it mean?
 - Why is it important?
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Debate (10 min)

Prompt:

- “Should power belong more to states or federal government?”
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Exit Ticket (5 min)

- Which principle is most important and why?
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10th Grade Quiz

1. Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?
2. What are the three branches?
3. What is federalism?
4. Why was the Bill of Rights necessary?

Answer Key:

1. Weak central government
2. Legislative, Executive, Judicial

3. Power shared between state and federal
4. Protect individual rights