

Defense of Freedom and the Constitution Lesson Plan 8th Grade

8th Grade Lesson Plan (50 minutes)

Topic: Structure of Government & Rights

Objective

Students will:

- Explain how the Constitution is structured
 - Understand checks and balances
 - Identify key rights and amendments
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Warm-Up (5 min)

Prompt:

- “What would happen if one branch had all the power?”
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Direct Instruction (15 min)

Teach:

- 3 branches + **checks and balances**
- Articles of the Constitution:
 - Article I → Legislative
 - Article II → Executive
 - Article III → Judicial

Discuss:

- Bill of Rights protects freedoms (speech, religion, trial)
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Activity (15 min)

“Real-Life Scenarios”

Students decide:

- Which amendment applies

Example:

- Police search without warrant → 4th Amendment
 - Freedom of speech → 1st Amendment
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Discussion (10 min)

- Why did the Founders fear too much power?
 - Why was the Bill of Rights added later?
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Exit Ticket (5 min)

- What is one example of checks and balances?
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8th Grade Quiz

1. What are the three branches?
2. What is checks and balances?
3. What does the First Amendment protect?
4. Why was the Constitution created?

Answer Key:

1. Legislative, Executive, Judicial
2. Each branch limits the others
3. Speech, religion, press, assembly
4. To create stronger government