

Web Resources for Constitution Day

The Democracy Project Mock Constitutional Convention

www.ipa.udel.edu/democracy/mockconvention

This site contains resources that can be used to simulate the “Philadelphia Convention” of 1787. The experience will reinforce a number of Delaware Civics benchmarks, as well as provide students with an understanding of the basic rules of parliamentary procedure.

The First State Celebrates Constitution Day

www.law.widener.edu/constitution/2007

a. This site features essays by government and community leaders about the meaning of the Constitution and their own personal roles in ensuring our democracy's ongoing viability. Contributors include both US Senators, the lone Congressman, the Governor, the speaker of the state house, the president pro tem of the state senate, federal and state judges, clergy, and the CEO of DuPont.

b. Comment section - at which students are invited to share their own thoughts about the essays or the Constitution itself.

c. Slide show exhibiting historical documents relating to Delaware Constitutional history.

ABC-Clio

www.constitution.abc-clio.com

This website provides teachers and students with short articles and videos about the Constitution, focusing generally on how the framers dealt with the issue of slavery. For teachers, there are five classroom activities about the Constitution for use in the classroom.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day

NARA offers a site with a large number of scanned primary source documents relating to the Constitution. The site also provides a set of standards-based activities for each document or set.

Center for Civic Education

http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=constitution_day

This website contains lesson plan ideas for grade K-12, divided by grade. Teachers can download a lesson pack with pictures, activities, and other resources.

Annenberg Classroom

www.justicelearning.org/constitutionday

The Annenberg foundation has collaborated with scholars and federal government officials to produce Constitution Day teaching materials, including videos and books that are FREE. Register with the site to have your selected materials mailed to you between September 8 and 13th.

Education World

www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson347.shtml

This informative site provides annotated links to resources and lesson plans that are designed to help your students better understand the Constitution.

National Constitution Center

www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday/display/MainS/Home

The National Constitution Center provides a wide range of resources for educators and students, including lesson plans, an “I Signed the Constitution” program, timelines, posters, and more.

Edsitement

edsitement.neh.gov/monthly_feature.asp

This site provides lesson plans on the Constitution (including a readers theater presentation and analysis of convention speeches), as well as a score of links providing further activities and background information for teaching about the Constitution.

First Amendment Schools

www.firstamendmentschools.org

FAS highlights court cases and how to engage students. Contains detailed descriptions of how member schools incorporate the First Amendment into lesson plans. Provides a list of member schools and an application. There are famous court cases links as well.

Bill of Rights Institute

www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Instructional/Resources/ConstitutionDay

This is a link for elementary, middle school, and high school teachers on how to incorporate Constitution Day. There are e-lessons accessible and an audio biography of George Mason.

Constitutional Rights Foundation

www.crfusa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.htm

Offers lessons and mini-lessons for Constitution Day primarily for middle school, and high school students. Sample sections are entitled due process, equal protection, and the Bill of Rights. Contains links to the Library of Congress and other useful websites.

The Constitution for Kids

www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html

This page is intended to help kindergarten through third grade teachers implement Constitution Day strategies. It describes the history and basics of the Constitution as well as the Bill of Rights in a simple way that elementary school students will have no trouble understanding. Links for middle school teachers and high school teachers are available.

The Library of Congress Thomas

thomas.loc.gov/teachers/constitution.html

This is the section of the Library of Congress website that can serve to help teachers of all grades as well as students. Contains links to primary source documents related to the Constitution. The LoC site also contains links to lesson plans and has a book list for teachers of all ages to reference for Constitution Day.

Marco Polo

www.marcopolo-education.org/MarcoGrams/Sep2005.html

This site is geared toward high school teachers. It describes famous historical or current situations and segues into relevant constitutional issues. Questions posed can be used to stimulate class discussion. Each historical issue/current event has links at the bottom that provide background information.

Junior Achievement

www.ja.org/programs/programs_supplements_constitution.shtml

This site contains five downloadable lesson plans that JA developed specifically for Constitution Day. In addition, three of these lessons are scheduled to be published in the September issue of the National Council for the Social Studies publication, *Social Education*.

Scholastic

teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/constitution_day

The Scholastic site is geared toward elementary school students and contains an interactive Constitution Day game on the site. It also contains sections entitled “Teacher Lesson Helper,” “Inside the Constitution,” and “Heroes of the Constitution.”

CQ Press

www.cqpress.com/incontext

This website contains lesson plans about the Constitution for both college professors and high school teachers. The CQ site also contains links to many other Constitution Day website as well as a feature entitled “Pro/Con Debates on Constitutional Issues” from *The CQ Researcher*.

Constitution Day Resources for Educators

www.gmc.edu/library/Constitution_Day.htm

This website contains Constitution Day lesson plans, discussion starters, and activities for K-12 school teachers. It also contains links to other useful websites and the Department of Education's Constitution Day notice of implementation.

Constitution Day Inc.

www.constitutionday.com

This website provides information for teachers interested in participating in the coordinated national recitation of the Preamble. This year's reading will be led by Colin Powell. Teachers can also download a brief video to play in class. The website provides a series of questions and answers about the Constitution, as well as some print resources for purchase by mail.

Website summaries compiled by Democracy Project and DSSEP graduate assistants Brian Gearin, Rob Gouthro, & Mike Haynes.