

## Constitution Day: Elementary School Teaching Strategies

- Discuss the parts of the Constitution; create a class Constitution.
- Using a Venn diagram with two circles, identify the powers that belong to the state government and the powers that belong to the federal government.
- After studying the three branches of government, have students create a Venn diagram outlining the powers granted to each branch of government.
- Compare the rights of Americans with the rights of citizens in other countries.
- Using pictures from newspapers and magazines, create a class bulletin board illustrating basic rights guaranteed in the United States Constitution.
- Identify a person who has lived in another country. Invite this person to serve as a guest speaker to your class, and have him/her describe the difference between “rights” in their native country and in the United States.
- Have a Birthday Party to celebrate the signing of the Constitution and have each student sign a reproduced copy of the Constitution using a quill pen and ink while discussing some of the more famous signers of the Constitution (i.e., Ben Franklin).
- Write poems about specific freedoms.
- Draw a picture/illustrate one right found in the Bill of Rights.
- Using an outline map, have students color the original thirteen colonies.
- Learn the Preamble by viewing *School House Rock* or by listening to the song at <http://www.school-house-rock.com/Prea.html>.
- Interview your parents and ask why the U.S. Constitution is an important document?
- Conduct a class play on the creation of the U.S. Constitution.
- Make Tricorn Hats and wear the hats while discussing the U.S. Constitution.
- Have students trace and cut out their handprint in red or white. On each handprint, have students write ways they can be good citizens. Use the handprints to make a large flag with teachers writing statements on the stars.
- Work with students to develop a K-W-L chart.
- Read the fable about the boy who cried wolf and apply it to classroom situations. Note: A more recent version of this story is the new movie titled *Chicken Little*. Students can view a clip from the movie and discuss the Freedom of Speech.
- Write a thank you card to one of the signers of the Constitution.
- Using clay or other materials, create a monument in honor of the United States Constitution and its birthday.
- Make a T-Chart illustrating “rules” on one side and “reasons” on the other side.
- Construct a wheel or web, listing rights as the hub and related responsibilities as the spokes.
- Read and discuss a book(s) about people throughout history who were denied basic freedoms.
- Discuss why it is important to protect our rights and why we should honor those who fight to protect our rights.
- Ask students to keep a journal of good citizenship they observe in their family, neighborhood, school, community, etc.
- During the morning announcements, have a student read a Constitutional fact Monday-Friday, during Constitution Week.
- Conduct a poster contest (i.e., Create a theme or have students illustrate one of the amendments).
- Have students think of an amendment that would benefit kids their age.
- Have students play “Who Wants to Be a Million Dollar Citizen?” This interactive game is available online at <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/MDC/index.htm>.
- Ask students to answer questions from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Test.