

Daily Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan: Understanding Slow Changes to Earth's Surface

Subject: 7th Grade Social Studies

TEKS Standard: Social Studies 7.13(a)

Government. The student understands the basic principles reflected in the Texas Constitution. The Student is expected to:

(A) Identify how the Texas Constitution reflects the principles of limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights;

Objective(s):

Students will be able to identify and explain how the Texas Constitution reflects the principles of limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the Texas Constitution excerpts
- Handouts with definitions and examples of the principles
- Whiteboard and markers
- Chart paper and markers
- Sticky notes
- Projector or smartboard
- Interactive Constitutional websites or digital tools
- Exit tickets

Lesson Duration:

1 Class Period (approximately 60 minutes)

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Begin with brief discussion on the important of constitution and its role in government.
- Show a short video or presentation about the history of the Texas Constitution
- Explain that the lesson will focus on identifying key principles in the Texas Constitution.

2. Direct Instruction (15 minutes)

- Introduce the seven principles: limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, seperation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights.
- Provide definitions and real-life examples of each principle
- Display excerpts from the Texas Constitution that illustrate each principle and discuss them with the class.

3. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group one of the seven principles.
- Give each group a chart paper and markers.
- Ask groups to find additional exampled of their assigned principle in the Texas Constitution excerpts and illustrate how it is reflected.
- Have each group present their findings to the class.

4. Interactive Activity (10 Minutes)

- Conducts a “Constitution Scaenger Hunt” using interactive websites or digital tools.
- Provide students with a list of clues related to the principles and have them find the corresponding sections in the Texas Constitution.

5. Independent Practice (5 minutes)

- Distribute handouts with questions that require students to match each principle with its description and examples from the Texas Constitution.
- Ask students to complete the handout individually.

6. Sharing and Discussion (5 minutes)

- Invite students to share their answers from the handout.

- Facilitate a class discussion on why these principles are important and how they affect government and citizen's lives.

7. Closure (5 minutes)

- Recap the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the seven principles and their significance in the Texas Constitution.
- Highlight how these principles ensure a balanced and fair government.

Differentiation:

- **For Advanced Students:** Provide more complex excerpts from the Texas Constitution and challenge them to analyze and interpret the text..
- **For Struggling Students:** Offer additional support with simplified definitions and examples. Pair them with peers from group activities.
- **For Visual Learners:** Use more visual aids, such as charts, diagrams, and videos, to reinforce concepts.
- **For Kinesthetic Learners:** Incorporate more hands-on activities, like the scavenger hunt, to engage them in active learning.

Homework:

- Assign students to work on a short essay on how one of the seven principles is reflected in their daily lives or in current events.
- Encourage students to find news articles or examples that illustrate their chosen principle and include these in their essays.

Reflection:

- Reflect on the lesson by considering student engagement and understanding.
- Assess whether students were able to accurately identify and explain the principles in the Texas Constitution. Gather student feedback on what they enjoyed and found challenging about the lesson .
- Adjust future lessons based on observations and feedback, possibly incorporating more interactive or visual elements if needed.

Assessment

- **Observation:** During group activities and the scavenger hunt, circulate around the classroom to observe students' participation and understanding.
- **Handouts:** Collects and review the handouts to assess students' ability to match principles with descriptions and examples.

- **Class Discussion:** Assess the students' understanding based on their contributions to the class discussion.
- **Exit Ticket:** At the end of the lesson, give each student an exit ticket with a question about one of the principles. For example, "How does one principle of checks and balances ensure fair governance?" This can provide insight into their understanding and any areas that may need further clarification.

By engaging students in a variety of activities and discussions, they will gain a deeper understanding of how the Texas Constitution reflects essential principles that govern their state and protect their rights.