THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CONSTITUTIONALISM COLLAGE

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Recognize the importance of the Seven Principles of Constitutionalism in the Constitution in today’s world
2. Interpret and apply the meaning of the Seven Principles of Constitutionalism in relation to the Constitution

TEKS: 8.15 D; GOVT. 7 D

Materials Needed: Copy of the Seven Principles of Constitutionalism chart, station placards, magazines, butcher paper, glue, scissors, markers

Vocabulary: principle, federalism, republicanism, popular sovereignty, limited government, individual rights, checks and balances, separation of powers, collage

Teaching Strategy:

1. Divide the class into seven groups.
2. Give each group one of the seven station placards.
3. Groups will discuss the meaning of the placard and decide which principle of constitutionalism it represents. The students will each fill in the blank on their own chart for that principle with a description of the example on the placard.
4. Once all groups are finished, they pass their placards clockwise to the next group. Repeat process until each group has had a chance to complete each placard.
5. Hand out a piece of white construction paper to each person. Have them divide the paper into eight equal squares. Explain to students that they will create a collage that reflects each of the Seven Principles of Constitutionalism.
6. The first square is for a catchy title for their collage. The seven other squares each represent one of the seven principles. Each square should be labeled. The students will create an illustration(s) or cut out pictures to fill in each square to represent each of the seven principles.

Adaptation:

1. In preparation for the lesson, cut a piece of poster board into seven jigsaw puzzle pieces.
2. Assign each group a principle they must illustrate on their puzzle piece through drawings or magazine or printed pictures.
3. When all groups are finished, pieces should be fit together to form a whole, demonstrating that the Constitution includes all seven principles of Constitutionalism.
Extension for GT/Pre-AP: Divide students into pairs. Students will use magazines, newspapers and approved websites to find modern day articles illustrating how some principles may be ignored or violated today. One student will prepare an explanation of how this principle is being violated. The other student will explain where in the Constitution this principle is found and how the violation might be corrected.

PRINCIPALES KEY—Station Placards
1—Checks & Balances
2—Individual Rights
3—Popular Sovereignty
4—Separation of Powers
5—Limited Government
6—Republicanism
7—Federalism
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<th>Constitutional Principles</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Examples of How and Where It Is Achieved</th>
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<tr>
<td>Popular Sovereignty</td>
<td>Ultimate power and final authority rest with “we the people” or all the citizens</td>
<td>The Preamble to the U. S. Constitution states: “We the People of the United States .... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Citizenship is defined in the 14th Amendment added to the Constitution after the Civil War in 1868. The right to vote was extended to women by the 19th Amendment added in 1920 and to those 18 or older by the 26th Amendment added in 1971.</td>
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<td>Republicanism</td>
<td>The people exercise their power by delegating it to representatives chosen by them through the election process.</td>
<td>The Constitution sets down a time frame for regular elections for all elected government positions. Article I provides for a bicameral U. S. Congress comprised of a House of Representatives all of whose members are elected every two years and a U. S. Senate whose members serve staggered six year terms. Article II provides for a President and a Vice President to be elected every four years. Article IV obligates the national government to guarantee each state “a republican form of government.”</td>
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<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Power is divided between the central (national) government and the state governments. Some powers are concurrent and thus held by both levels of government (for example, the power to tax).</td>
<td>The Constitution lists powers delegated to the national government. For example, Article I, Section 8 contains a lengthy list of the powers of the U. S. Congress. Powers not delegated to the national government and not denied to the states are reserved to the states or to the people by the 10th Amendment.</td>
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<td>Separation of Powers</td>
<td>Power within the national government is divided among three separate branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial.</td>
<td>Article I creates a Legislative branch and assigns that branch its duties and powers. Article II creates an Executive branch and assigns that branch its duties and powers. Article III creates a Judicial branch and assigns that branch its duties and powers.</td>
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## Constitutionalism—Seven Basic Principles Preserving Liberty

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<td>Checks and Balances</td>
<td>Each branch of the national government has certain controls (checks) over the other two branches.</td>
<td>Article I, for example, gives Congress the power to impeach, try, convict, and remove from office officers of the other two branches. Article I also gives the President the power to veto any bill passed by the Congress. Article II gives the President the power to appoint judges of the Supreme Court and other federal courts. Article III does not specifically give the judicial branch any check over the other two branches, but the U. S. Supreme Court established a check called judicial review over the other two branches for itself in 1803 in a case called Marbury v Madison.</td>
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<td>Limited Government</td>
<td>Government’s power is limited by the rule of law which includes the Constitution and the laws which are passed in pursuance of that Constitution. This means that government is not all-powerful.</td>
<td>Limits on government, for example, are imposed by the rights guaranteed to the people by the U. S. Bill of Rights and by Article I, Sections 9 and 10. Also, the Supremacy Clause of Article VI makes the Constitution, only those laws made in pursuance of the Constitution, and treaties the “Supreme Law of the Land.”</td>
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<td>Individual Rights</td>
<td>Personal freedoms, personal protections, and equality under the law are guaranteed in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and laws of the U. S.</td>
<td>Article I, Section 9, for example, provides that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended except in time of rebellion or invasion, that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed, and that no titles of nobility shall be granted. The U. S. Bill of Rights lists numerous other individual rights. Due process of law and equal protection of the law for all persons are guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.</td>
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</table>
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
The President

President may veto legislation; call special sessions, recommend legislation, appeal to the people.

President appoints Federal judges

Congress creates agencies and programs, appropriates funds, may override veto, may remove President through impeachment; Senate approves treaties and presidential appointments.

Judges appointed for life, are free from executive control; courts may declare executive actions to be unconditional.

Courts may declare acts of Congress to be unconditional.

Congress creates lower courts, and may remove judges through impeachment; Senate approves appointment of judges.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
The Congress

JUDICIAL BRANCH
The Supreme Court and other Federal Courts
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF, OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS, OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.
U.S. GOVERNMENT
CIVIL LIBERTIES

Don’t Leave Home Without Them
Some powers are just for states.

Shared Concurrent Powers

Some powers are just for the national or central government.