

CONSTITUTION: AT A GLANCE

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Analyze a constitution for its unique characteristics
2. Compare similarities and differences in various constitutions

TEKS/TAKS: 6.21-22; 7.21-22; 8.30-31; U.S. 26-27; WH 26-27; WG. 23

Materials Needed: Copies of three constitutions from around the world (found on the Internet); highlighters, copies of U.S. Constitution, and a copy of the graphic organizer for each student.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Divide students into four groups and give each group a copy of a different constitution and a graphic organizer for each person in the group. This group is called the *Expert Group*.
2. Using the characteristics of a constitution below, the *Expert Group* will analyze and highlight the appropriate parts of the assigned constitution and then complete the graphic organizer. Each member of the *Expert Group* should be prepared to share this information with others using the graphic organizer.

Characteristics of a Constitution

- Purpose, goals and authority
 - Structure of the government (who carries out the functions of the government)
 - Powers of the government-examples of what they can do
 - Limitations of power - examples of what they can not do
3. After the *Expert Group* has completed its work, four new groups are formed, called *Base Groups*. Each one of these new base groups should have at least one representative from each of the four original expert groups. One by one, the analysis and graphic organizer for each constitution is shared. Students should ask questions about each constitution presented.
 4. After all constitutions are shared, each group should draw conclusions about the similarities and differences among the four constitutions.
 5. Conclude the lesson by having students select the constitution under which they would most like to live and defend their choice.

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Preamble

Paraphrase the purpose or goals



Structure
(Organization)

Quote #1

Quote #2



Powers - Draw a visual that represents a power.



Draw a Limitation on Power



Question:

