

Introduction to Curriculum Project

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## **Introduction**

To demonstrate the knowledge and ideas I learned in the M.A.T Curriculum Studies Program, I have designed the following curriculum project entitled, Creating a New Nation. My curriculum project centers around topics, like the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, and the ratification of the Constitution. My lessons were designed with constructivism and a sprinkle of behaviorism in mind. Student engagement and hands-on learning were the main focus of my lessons.

## **Audience**

The main audience for my curriculum project will be a group of 8th grade students, along with myself, who is acting as the facilitator of this unit. The primary stakeholders are, first and foremost, the students, along with other social studies teachers, parents, the local community, and administrators.

## **Content**

My curriculum project covers the creation and ratification of the Constitution, specifically focusing on the time period of 1783-1790. The unit is 3.5 weeks long, roughly equally out to roughly 14 hours. The curriculum project encapsulates the Colorado Social Studies Standards, along with the historical thinking skills necessary for students to strengthen their understanding of how the past and present connect. Students will begin by exploring the early quarrels and accomplishments brought by the ending of the Revolutionary War and the Articles of Confederation. Then, they will dive into the construction of the Constitution, specifically looking at the issues the Founding Fathers faced and the compromises they made. Lastly, students will deconstruct the Constitution and its 6 main principles, in order to understand its framework. Throughout the unit, students will be connecting the past to the present and will

explore how this unit is relevant to their lives today. Moreover, students will be exploring how different groups of people were and still are affected by the construction and the ratification of the United States Constitution.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this curriculum project is to increase student understanding of the significance of the United States Constitution. In addition, another purpose is to get students familiar with historical thinking skills and concepts. When students can successfully analyze primary and secondary sources, they will be able to successfully read and write about what we know about the past. Ideally, the main goal of this unit is to turn, what is normally a dry, tedious unit, into a blossoming interactive one, where students can correlate the historical content to what currently is happening in the world today. By doing this, the hope is to get students thinking of how they can become active participants in their local community, possibly in ways that advocate for local government policy changes that stand out to them.