

Lesson Plan



LESSON PLAN

Introduction to The Nullification Crisis

Summary: This activity introduces students to the different perspectives and issues they will encounter during the Nullification Crisis VOXPOP role-play.

General Overview:

1. Step One: As a class, discuss the Warm Up question that will get students thinking about tariffs.
2. Step Two: Build knowledge about the balance of state and federal power (federalism) using a true or false discussion sheet.
3. Step Three: Connect to the Nullification Crisis, introducing students to the Tariff of Abominations and read two primary source perspectives.

Essential Question: How do different views on economic policy, and the balance of state and federal powers shape perspectives during the Nullification Crisis?

Materials:

[Lesson Slides](#), [Introduction to Nullification Crisis Worksheet](#)

Modifications & Recommendations:

- In a large class, the Step One & Step Two lends itself well to partner work. From the Warmup onward, students can return to the same partner over the course of each activity to facilitate discussion.
- Adding the [Pre-Reading](#) as homework or as further extension after this lesson would be really helpful to students in preparing for the nuances in perspectives.
- For more support as you read each Primary Source Perspective, display the first passage on the board and read it together, modeling good annotation as you go. Then, have students try the second passage on their own.

Setup

Before the Lesson:

- Print a copy of [Introduction to Nullification Crisis Worksheet](#) for each student or give them a copy in your Google Drive.

Warm Up: Consider This

(Suggested Time: 10 minutes)

- To introduce the topic, display the Warm Up on [Lesson Slides](#) and have students answer the question on their worksheet
 - Discuss their answers to the question, either in partners or as a whole class.
- Then, show the second slide with the new tariff. In partner or whole class discussion, consider how this new information affects their choice.

Building Knowledge

(Suggested Time: 15-20 minutes)

Overview: Federalism

- Introduce students to the concept of federalism and balancing power using the Overview: Federalism slide.
 - Tell students that federalism is all around us! They'll now use their prior knowledge to respond to some statements about federalism.

Activity: Federalism: True or False?

- On their own or with a partner, have students complete the Federalism: True or False? activity (it's quick - 5 minutes).
- When they are ready, as a class, go over each correct answer & discuss. The ideas in the supremacy clause & commerce clause are very important for the Nullification crisis, and we encourage you to emphasize these.

Primary Source Perspectives

(Suggested Time: 20-30 minutes)

Overview

- Tell students they'll be using this knowledge as they role-play a historical question related to a dispute between state & federal government. That dispute began with the Tariff of 1828.
- Show the Tariff of 1828 & Nullification overview slides - students can take notes if you want, but should be quick.
- Once you've given context, remind them they will each take on a perspective related to nullification. Now, they're going to read two of those perspectives.

Primary Source Activity: Perspectives

- Alone or in partners, have students read the perspectives & answer the questions below the passage. Discuss & complete the tables in the lesson slides.

Summarizing

(Suggested Time: 10 minutes)

- Once you have a good understanding of the perspectives, use the "Summarizing" slide in the lesson slides to review & bring things together. Elicit responses from students and take notes on the board to give the class an understanding of each perspective.
- This is a moment to summarize everything and also introduce students to the more specific roles they might take. Using the broad understanding we've just created of Unionists & Nullifiers, reference groups more specifically - what might Plantation Owners be wanting to protect? What might Abolitionists be concerned with?
- Tell students that now, they will take on one of these perspectives during the VOXPOP role-play!