

# CONSTITUTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

## Constitution Day Scavenger Hunt with 60-Second Civics

### Lesson Overview

Fifty-five delegates were present at the Constitutional Convention, which was held in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787. Most students can identify George Washington, James Madison and maybe even Alexander Hamilton. But what about the other fifty-two delegates—who were they? How did they influence the convention? In this lesson students will familiarize themselves with the delegates by listening to a series of 60-Second Civics podcast episodes devoted to the Framers of the Constitution. This lesson can be used as an introduction to any social studies or history unit about the creation of the Constitution. As students go through this and subsequent units, they should pay attention to the role these delegates or Framers played not only at the convention but in the first decades of our nation's history.

**Suggested grade levels:** Ninth and tenth grades (fifth–eighth grades with teacher modifications)

**Objectives:** By the end of this lesson students should be able to

- identify the fifty-five delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the states they represented;
- compare the similarities and differences between the delegates; and
- discuss the political work the delegates went on to do after the convention.

### Materials Needed

- Student Handout
- Teacher Resource 1
- Teacher Resource 2
- Teacher Resource 3
- 60-Second Civics podcasts on the Framers of the Constitution, available for free at <http://new.civiced.org/framers>
- Laptop or computer with speakers

**Estimated Time:** Two class periods

## Procedure

1. *Beginning the Lesson.* Introduce the lesson by asking students if they can name the delegates who attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. What do they know about them? Did any state not participate? List what the students say on the board or on chart paper.
2. *Using podcasts.* Ask students if they know what podcasts are or if they have ever listened to podcasts. If they do, what types of podcasts are they listening to? Explain to students that they are going to use 60-Second Civics podcasts to help them learn about the Framers of the Constitution. Using a laptop or class computer demonstrate to students how to listen to the 60-Second Civics podcasts on the Framers, which can be found at <http://new.civiced.org/framers>.
3. *Learning about the delegates.* Review the list the students populated with their knowledge of the delegates. Choosing George Washington, ask students what additional information they could include. Then play the podcast episode about George Washington. Did the students hear anything new? Was there evidence of an error in their initial list? George Washington should have been an easy person to identify. Name one or two delegates from the list who might be less well known and ask the students if they know what states they represented.
4. *Listening scavenger hunt.* Prepare the class for the activity. Divide class into six groups and distribute the student handout and the sets of clues (see Teacher Resource 3). Go over the task and assignment.
5. *Sharing out.* Once the groups have completed their assignment they will share their information with the rest of the class. Teacher Resource 2 has suggestions for accomplishing this.
6. *Concluding the lesson.* Conclude the lesson with a brief discussion. The following questions might facilitate that discussion:
  - What are some new things you learned about the Framers from this exercise?
  - What similarities do the Framers share?
  - What differences do you notice among the Framers?
  - How might their backgrounds have influenced their ideas and actions?
  - What type of political involvement, if any did the Framers have after the Constitutional Convention? (Within their states? Within the country?)
  - What have you learned about using podcasts?
  - What states, if any, did not send delegates to the convention? Why?
  - What other information would you have liked from the podcast? Why?

**Tip:** If you would like to continue using 60-Second Civics in your classroom, please visit the podcast's homepage online at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/multimedia/60-second-civics>. Many teachers use the podcast and the Daily Civics Quiz, also found on that page, as a daily warmup activity.

Have you enjoyed this free lesson plan and the 60-Second Civics podcast? Help us reach even more of our nation's young people. Consider making a donation to the Center for Civic Education by visiting <http://new.civiced.org/about/give/donate>.