

Contributor: Patricia Emerson **Grade Level:** K-3rd

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

Tennessee Standards

Social Studies Practices: SSP.02

Critically examine a primary or secondary source in order to:

- Summarize significant ideas and relevant information
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Draw conclusions
- Recognize author’s purpose and point of view

Government and Civics Content Standard 2.21

- Recognize that the U.S. has a constitution, which is the basis for our nation’s laws.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes: Students will examine a facsimile of the US Constitution and talk about the purpose, the ideas, and the signers. Students will know that the United States has a constitution and that it is the basis for the nation’s laws.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

- Book: *We the Kids* by David Catrow
- Photocopy or written notes of The Words ... page (for teacher use)
- Poster of Constitution
- Chart paper: We the Kids of Ms. Lea’s Second Grade, in order to form a more perfect class, promise to...
- Markers
- Optional: Incentives for students (eg bookmarks, pencils, flags)

4. Procedure for instruction:

- Introduction and access prior knowledge: Today is a special day in our county: Constitution Day. Does anyone know what a constitution is?
- A constitution is simply a list of rules and promises written down by people just like you and me. The author of this book says that to him, the Constitution is a “kind of how-to book, showing us ways to have happiness, safety, and comfort.” Sounds like common sense, doesn’t it? But back when the constitution was written (1787—234 years ago), not everyone was allowed to be happy and safe and comfortable. So some very smart men wrote these rules, and they still make sense for us today.
- Has anyone ever seen our US Constitution, either in person or a copy or picture? Display poster. “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”
- Talk about writing, language, signatures.

5. Lesson closure:

- Today we’re going to pay special attention to the Preamble of our Constitution, the beginning part. It’s sort of an introduction that tells us the reasons they wrote this important document.
- Read book, using photocopy or written notes to explain and initiate conversation for each page.
- The constitution makes rules for all the people of our country. Is it important to have rules? Why?
- Think of some of your classroom rules.

- We're going to create our own constitution for our classroom, using those rules that you are thinking of, and have probably talked about with Ms. Lea.
- Introduce chart paper with "We The Kids" heading.
- Students will offer classroom rules, teacher will write the on the chart paper constitution.
- When finished, all students will sign

6. **Assessment of Understanding:** Distribute incentives. To earn incentive, students must relate one thing they learned or one thing they would like to know more about

We the Kids

of Ms. Lea's class,
in order to form a more perfect
Second Grade Classroom, promise to
make smart choices, follow
directions quickly, never hurt
other people, make our community
happy and stronger, not tell unless
it's a big deal, keep our eyes on
the target, listen to your teacher,
raise your hand.
