

Lesson Plan:

Delaware and the Constitution

Content Standards:

History Anchor Standard One: Students will employ chronological concepts in analyzing historical phenomena [Chronology].

6-8a: Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; analyze change over time, and make logical inferences concerning cause and effect.

9-12a: Students will analyze historical materials to trace the development of an idea or trend across space or over a prolonged period of time in order to explain patterns of historical continuity and change.

History Anchor Standard Three: Students will interpret historical data [Interpretation].

6-8a: Students will compare different historians' descriptions of the same societies in order to examine how the choice of questions and use of sources may affect their conclusions.

9-12a: Students will compare competing historical narratives, by contrasting different historians' choice of questions, use and choice of sources, perspectives, beliefs, and points of view, in order to demonstrate how these factors contribute to different interpretations.

History Anchor Standard Four: Students will develop historical knowledge of major events and phenomena in world, United States, and Delaware history [Content].

4-5a: Students will develop an understanding of Delaware history and its connections with United States history, including:

9-12a: Students will develop an understanding of modern United States history, its connections to both Delaware and world history, including:

Primary Documents:

State of Delaware Historical Markers

Transcribed copy of petition to Delaware General Assembly to adopt the U.S. Constitution

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Procedure:

Warm Up: Have students complete the following Anticipation Guide. Once complete go over with students.

Procedure: Have students read and answer the questions on the transcribed petition to the General Assembly encouraging the adoption of the Constitution.

 Have students then look at each marker and fill out the chart and questions related to the markers.

Have students create their own marker. You may need to provide ideas and websites for students to research. Students should also look at <https://archives.delaware.gov/delaware-historical-markers/> in order to get an idea for markers that have already been adopted. Possible ideas could include other signers of the Constitution who do not have markers.

Anticipation Guide

Directions: Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false by circling the correct answer. Do not use any outside sources to assist in the answering of these questions. (ie. Books, Computers, Phones)

1. The U.S. Constitution is a framework for government. True/False
2. Ratify means to give formal consent. True/False
3. The U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1776. True/False
4. Delaware was the last state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. True/False
5. The State of Delaware has a constitution. True/False
6. George Washington signed the Constitution. True/False
7. Delaware had more signers of the Constitution than any other state. True/False
8. Delaware's ratification of the constitution happened at a Tavern in Dover. True/False
9. Gunning Bedford of Wilmington, DE signed the Constitution. True/False
10. The U.S. Constitution is the world's oldest constitution. True/False

Anticipation Guide

Answer Sheet

Directions: Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false by circling the correct answer. Do not use any outside sources to assist in the answering of these questions. (ie. Books, Computers, Phones)

1. The U.S. Constitution is a framework for government. True/False

a written instrument embodying the rules of a political or social organization. From Merriam Webster online dictionary

2. Ratify means to give formal consent. True/False

3. The U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1776. True/False

Written in 1787, ratified in 1788, and in operation since 1789, the United States Constitution is the world's longest surviving written charter of government. From U.S. Senate Web Site

4. Delaware was the last state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. True/False

Delaware was the first state to ratify the constitution

5. The State of Delaware has a constitution. True/False

6. George Washington signed the Constitution. True/False

7. Delaware had more signers of the Constitution than any other state. True/False

Delaware had 5 signers while Pennsylvania had 8

8. Delaware's ratification of the constitution happened at a Tavern in Dover. True/False
See Below

9. Gunning Bedford of Wilmington, DE signed the Constitution. True/False
See Below

10. The U.S. Constitution is the world's oldest written constitution. True/False

Written in 1787, ratified in 1788, and in operation since 1789, the United States Constitution is the world's longest surviving written charter of government. From U.S. Senate Web Site

Document 1

Transcription (Document in Delaware Archives)

A Petition of the Freedholders and Electors of the Delaware State to the General Assembly

Whereas the Citizens of the State have for some time experienced great inconveniences and disadvantages, which in the opinion of your Petitioners have chiefly proceeded from a want of a more efficient general governance of the Union. And as the late General Convention appointed to meet at Philadelphia have with the most auspicious unanimity agreed upon and recommended a federal Constitution for the excellent purposes of forming a more perfect Union establish justice, providing for the common Defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the Blessings of Liberty to the Citizens of the United States and their Posterity. And have resolved that the same be laid before the United States in the Congress assembled, and afterwards submitted to a Convention of Delegates chosen in each State by the People thereof under the recommendation of its legislature for their assent and Ratification your Petitioners therefore having had the Satisfaction to hear that Congress have approved the Constitution above mentioned, most earnestly request your honorable Houses to appoint a time as early as may be convenient for the Election of Delegates to a State Convention, in order that the Citizens of Delaware may from their zeal for the general welfare by a speedy ratification an adoption of a plan of Government which your petitioner trust will be attended with the most desirable consequences of Peace, stability, efficacy and Prosperity in all the confederate state respect and confidence in forging a nation and meet the applause and cordial approbation of the true notaries of Liberty whatever Country the inhabit.

October 24, 1787

Questions

1. When was the source written?
2. Who was it written for?
3. Why have the petitioners suffered great inconveniences?
4. The petitioners are requesting that the honorable Houses do what?

Marker 1

Golden Fleece Tavern: The Green Dover



This was the site of the Golden Fleece Tavern, scene of some of the most important and dramatic events in Delaware history. Built in the 1730s, the Golden Fleece was a center for community and government activities. It was a place of great importance during the American Revolution and the early years of our Nation's Independence. Also known as Battell's Tavern, it hosted the meetings of the Committee of Inspection and Observation, and was a vital point for the exchange of wartime communications. With the transfer of state government from New Castle to Dover in 1777, the Golden Fleece became the meeting place of the Assembly's Upper House, the Legislative Council. It was the home of that body until a State House was completed in 1791. In September 1787, a new framework for our Nation's government was sent to the states for consideration. Thirty delegates were elected to meet and review the document. The meeting was convened here on December 3. Approval was unanimous, and on December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the Federal Constitution. A fitting climax to its role as Delaware's "Capitol Tavern" occurred in January 1790, when the Council met to approve the Bill of Rights. The Golden Fleece was demolished circa 1830, and replaced by the Capitol

Hotel. The hotel was closed in the 1920s, and renovated to its present appearance by Henry and Mabel Lloyd Ridgely.

Marker 2

Gunning Bedford: Concord Pike Wilmington



1747-1812. Member of Continental Congress and of Annapolis Convention. A framer of United States Constitution, which Delaware was first to ratify. Appointed first District Judge of Delaware by President Washington. Purchased this property 1793 as country home, naming it "Lombardy". Buried at Tenth and Market Streets, Wilmington. Reinterred 1921 at Masonic Home.

Marker 3

John Dickinson: Kitts Hummock Dover



"The Penman of the Revolution." Member of Delaware Colonial and State Assemblies. Member of Continental Congress, Annapolis Convention, and Philadelphia Federal Constitutional Convention. Signer for Delaware of Articles of Confederation and Federal Constitution. Governor of Delaware and President Second Delaware Constitutional Convention. Born Maryland 1732, died Wilmington, 1808.

Marker 4

Dover: Lockerman Street



County seat since 1680. William Penn, in 1683, ordered town site laid out and named Dover. Plotted in 1717. Temporary capital in 1777 and permanent capital since 1779. Federal Constitution ratified here in 1787, making Delaware first State in Union. State Constitutional Conventions held here in 1791-1792, 1831, 1852, and 1897.

Comparing the Markers

	Who or what is the marker about?	Pick one notable fact on the marker and write below.	Where are these markers located?
Marker 1			
Marker 2			
Marker 3			
Marker 4			

1. Do the markers have any thing in common? If so what is it?
2. What do these markers tell us about Delaware's role in the founding of the United States?
3. Is there anyone else who should have a marker? Why?

Activity : Creating new historical markers

Have your students do research to find additional people or place that should be honored with a historical marker. The marker should be related to Delaware's role in the development or ratification of the constitution. This must be a new marker and not a repeat of one already adopted.

The student should complete the following:

1. The proposed text that would be inscribed on the marker
2. The proposed location of the marker
3. A justification for why that marker should be adopted by the Delaware Archives
4. Provide a list of credible sources

Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Historical Accuracy	The information provided in the requirements is correct and compelling	The information is not well described	The information provided contains or 1 or 2 errors that detract from the need for a marker	The information provided in the requirements contains multiple inaccuracies that make the need for a marker untenable
Location Reasons	The information provided in the requirements is correct and provides compelling justification for adoption	The information presented in well described but only provides limited reasons for adoption	The information presented is weak and does not provide compelling reasons for adoption	The information provided in requirements is inaccurate and provides no justification for location
Argument for Marker	The information provided in correct and provides compelling justification for this person or place	The information presented in well described but only provides limited reasons for adoption	The information presented in weak and not provide compelling reasons for adoption	The information provided in requirements is inaccurate and provides no justification for this person or place
Sources	There are a variety of sources and they are credible. Contains both primary and secondary sources	There are a variety of sources but no primary source is listed	The source are unreliable and inaccurate	No sources are listed

Extension:

If you have access to google earth or google maps find each of the markers and project on a SmartBoard.