

Lesson Plan - Convention Call

Objective:

- Students will identify the problems facing the United States under the Articles of Confederation government and how these problems led to the organization of the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

Standards:

- ODE American History Standards K-12
 - Some documents in American history have considerable importance for the development of the nation. Students use historical thinking to examine key documents which form the basis for the United States of America.
 - Problems facing the national government under the Articles of Confederation led to the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. The framers of the Constitution applied ideas of Enlightenment in conceiving the new government.

Materials:

- Web Access for Research
 - Constitutional Convention
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/intro/>
- Convention Call Assignment

Sequence:

- Begin with a lecture or independent research on the problems facing the nation under the Articles of Confederation government.
- Students complete additional research on the motives that led to the organization of the convention and the delegates participating.
- Convention Call Assignment
 - Design an invitation that might be sent to prospective delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The invitation should include:
 - When the convention will begin and end.
 - Where it will take place
 - Who has been invited
 - What will be accomplished
 - A bold title
 - A catchy statement to entice delegates to attend
 - Creative touches: 18th century slang, images, etc...

Evaluation

- Students share their invitations with the class.