***September 17th is Constitution Day***

In preparation for Constitution Day, the following are resources K-12, to help you celebrate Constitution Day in any way that meets the needs of your students.

Celebrate Freedom Week may be connected to Constitution Day, or be celebrated any other week designated by the local Board of Education. Below are the applicable federal and state regulations. Note **Federal Law requires “an educational program on the United States Constitution”**

In preparation for Constitution Day/Freedom Week, our students K-5 have the opportunity to engage with the Constitution in several ways:

Using the five Social Studies Standards, Units of Study, complete with lessons, have been created for K-5 classrooms, focusing on Civics and Government for IW1.  Every grade level was charged with creating a Classroom Bill of Rights and lessons for Freedom week are also articulated as follows:

K - Freedom Week - Small Acts of Citizenship in Our Classroom

Resources: *Please and Thank You* and *Taking Turns*, books in the classroom libraries

First Grade - Freedom Week - What is a Constitution?

Resources: *We the Kids*, by David Catrow

Second Grade - Freedom Week (4 lessons)

Resources:  *The Constitution of the United States* by Patricia Ryan Quiri

Third Grade - Freedom Weeks (4 lessons)

Resources:  *We the People:  The Story of Our Constitution* by Lynn Cheney

Fourth Grade - Freedom Weeks - State and National Constitution (4 lessons)

Resources: *American Government, Branches of Government:  A Closer Look*

Fifth Grade - Freedom Week - Building a Nation:  1770s-1790s

Students conduct a short research project

In addition to the resources shown for each grade level, there are websites, graphic organizers, poetry selections, photos, etc. to support the activities in the lessons provided.

Doing Social studies provides lesson plans and ideas for highlighting the U.S. Constitution.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | [http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/56cf9689e8a2a997cdb6239c55510ec8?s=50&d=identicon&r=G](http://doingsocialstudies.com/author/cassmedley/) | [**We The People of the United States, In Order to Teach on Constitution Day, Need Some Great Resources!**](http://doingsocialstudies.com/2018/09/10/we-the-people-of-the-united-states-in-order-to-teach-on-constitution-day-need-some-great-resources/)  by [cassiemedley](http://doingsocialstudies.com/author/cassmedley/) |   ownload<https://www.georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/polisci/resources/constitution-day.html>  Constitution Day became a national observance in 2004, when Senator Robert Byrd lobbied for a bill designating September 17 as the day for citizens to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution and learn more about our founding document. Senator Byrd once said, “Our ideals of freedom, set forth and realized in our Constitution, are our greatest export to the world.” He added the Constitution Day clause to his 2004 federal spending bill because he believed that all citizens should know about their rights as outlined in the Constitution. This clause mandates the teaching of the Constitution in schools that receive federal funds, as well as federal agencies.  Resources from the National Constitution Center <https://constitutioncenter.org/constitution-day/constitution-day-resources>  Creating a Classroom Constitution K-5 <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/creating-classroom-constitution/>  Creating a Classroom Constitution 6-12 <http://www.crfc.org/teaching-materials/we-students-writing-class-constitution>  Teaching "Big Ideas" in the Constitution <https://www.archives.gov/legislative/resources/education/constitution>  Lesson Plans from History Channel <https://images.history.com/images/media/pdf/Constitution-LessonPlans.pdf>  What are you planning on doing in your classroom for Constitution Day?  Share your resources in the comments section below! |

**Constitution Day and Celebrate Freedom Week Regulations**

**Federal Register**/Vol. 70, No. 99 /Tuesday, May 24, 2005 /Notices

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**This notice informs educational institutions receiving Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) of a new statutory requirement for implementation of an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution, on a date designated by statute as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (‘‘Constitution Day’’). This Congressional initiative is authorized by Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108–447, the ‘‘Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005,’’ Dec. 8, 2004; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344–45 (Section 111). The Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement (Assistant Deputy Secretary) takes this action in order to implement this provision as it applies to educational institutions receiving Federal funding from the Department.

Section 111(b) states ‘‘[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.’’ For purposes of the Department’s implementation of this requirement, ‘‘educational institutions’’ includes but is not limited to ‘‘local educational agencies’’ and ‘‘institutions of higher education’’ receiving Federal funding from the Department.  Section 111 applies to all educational institutions receiving Federal funding, not only those receiving Federal funding

from the Department. However, the Department’s authority only extends to those educational institutions receiving funding from the Department, and consequently the Department can only regulate with regard to those institutions. Section 111 requires that Constitution Day be held on September 17 of each year, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week. Section 111 does not authorize funds to carry out this requirement, and Section 111(d) indicates that this section shall apply ‘‘without fiscal year limitation.’’ Accordingly, the Assistant Deputy Secretary intends that this notice pertain to this fiscal year and all

subsequent years.

**Kansas Department of Administration Regulations 2014**

**Section 91-31-32 Accreditation**

**Section J i-ii**

(J) history, government, and celebrate freedom week. Each local board of education shall include

the following in its history and government curriculum:

(i) Within one of the grades seven through 12 a course of instruction in Kansas history and government.

The course of instruction shall be offered for at least nine consecutive weeks. The local board of education shall waive this requirement for any student who transfers into the district at a grade level above that in which the course is taught; and (ii) for grades kindergarten through eight, instruction concerning the original intent, meaning, and importance of the declaration of independence and the United States constitution, including the bill of rights, in their historical contexts, pursuant to L. 2013, ch. 121, sec. 2 and amendments thereto. The study of the declaration of independence shall include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history

<http://www.sos.ks.gov/pubs/kar/2014/091_91-Department%20of%20Education,%202014%20KAR%20Supp.pdf>

***Kansas Statutes Annotated (2015)***

***Article 11. – School attendance, curriculum and Accreditation 2015 Statute***

“72-1129. Celebrate freedom week. (a) In order to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded, the week of September containing the 17th day of such month in each year thereafter is hereby designated as "celebrate freedom week" in each public school offering any of the grades kindergarten through eight.

(b) The state board of education, in cooperation with such other state agencies or private entities who voluntarily participate, shall promote "celebrate freedom week" through a coordinated program.

(c) For purposes of this section, Sunday is deemed to be the first day of the week.

72-1130. Same; state board of education; rules and regulations. On or before December 31, 2013, the state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations requiring appropriate instruction be provided as part of the curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight on history and government concerning the original intent, meaning and importance of the declaration of independence and the United States constitution, including the bill of rights of the United States constitution, in their historical contexts. The religious references in the writings of the founding fathers shall not be censored when presented as part of such instruction. Such rules and regulations shall provide that the study of the declaration of independence include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of such ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American revolution, the formulation of the United States constitution and the abolitionist movement, which led to the emancipation proclamation and the women's suffrage movement. Such instruction shall be taught during "celebrate freedom week," established under K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 72-1129, and amendments thereto, or during such other full school week as determined by the board of education of the school district.”

This message has been sent from the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. The information contained in this email and any attachments may be privileged and confidential, and are intended only for the individual or entity identified as the addressee. If you are not the addressee, or if the message has been addressed to you in error, you are not authorized to read, retain, copy, or distribute the message or any attachments. If you have received the message in error, please delete it and any attachments and notify the sender by return e-mail or by telephone. Thank you.