Lesson/Activity Title:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Time: approximately 45-60 minutes (can be divided into blocks of time)

Instructional Goals:

- The student will learn the importance of the U.S. Constitution and Constitution Day (September 17).
- The student will use the PebbleGo online database to research the U.S. Constitution.
- The student will take research notes on a graphic organizer about the U.S. Constitution.
- The student will navigate an online database to locate needed information.
- The student will be introduced to the term bibliography and the importance of giving credit to a source during research.

Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo online database
- U.S. Constitution graphic organizer (one for each student)

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Tell the class that each year on September 17 we celebrate Constitution Day in the United States of America. Explain that students are going to research and take notes on the U.S. Constitution so they will understand why this document is important enough to have its own day of honor.

2. Brainstorm information the students might want to know about the U.S. Constitution, focusing on using the "question words" who, what, where, when, why, and how. Students might brainstorm such research questions as:
    › What is the U.S. Constitution?
    › Why is the Constitution important?
    › Why do we honor the Constitution on September 17?
    › When was the U.S. Constitution first written or created?
    › Where was the U.S. Constitution created?
    › How has the Constitution changed?

3. Explain that the students will use an information source called PebbleGo to find the answers to their U.S. Constitution questions.

Teach/Model

4. Walk students through the process of accessing the PebbleGo online database.

5. Show students how subject directory searching works by navigating through the subject directory pictures in PebbleGo. Show students keyword searching by using the Search box at the top of the screen. Type in Constitution to show students how they can use the keyword searching function to find the information they need.

6. Demonstrate the read aloud function by clicking on the appropriate button and listening to the text being read aloud.

7. Show students the tabs at the top of the screen that allow them to scroll through the information. Highlight the information in the glossary of each article by clicking on a highlighted word and reading the definition. Demonstrate how students can click the Watch button to watch videos.

8. Show the students how they can look through the different pictures and how these pictures give additional information. Show students how to choose a picture and print it out.

9. Explain to students that they will be taking notes from the information in PebbleGo about the U.S. Constitution.

Guided Practice

10. Show students the U.S. Constitution graphic organizer. Demonstrate how students should take their notes, emphasizing they do not need to write complete sentences in their notes.

11. Explain to students why it is important to give credit to their research sources. They will need to cite their source in their research notes. Show them the "Cite This Source" button for PebbleGo.

Independent Practice

12. Have students work independently or with a partner to complete their U.S. Constitution graphic organizer using PebbleGo.

13. Monitor student progress as they work to complete their graphic organizer.

Closure

14. Students may create a special school-wide announcement for September 17, Constitution Day, which explains the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

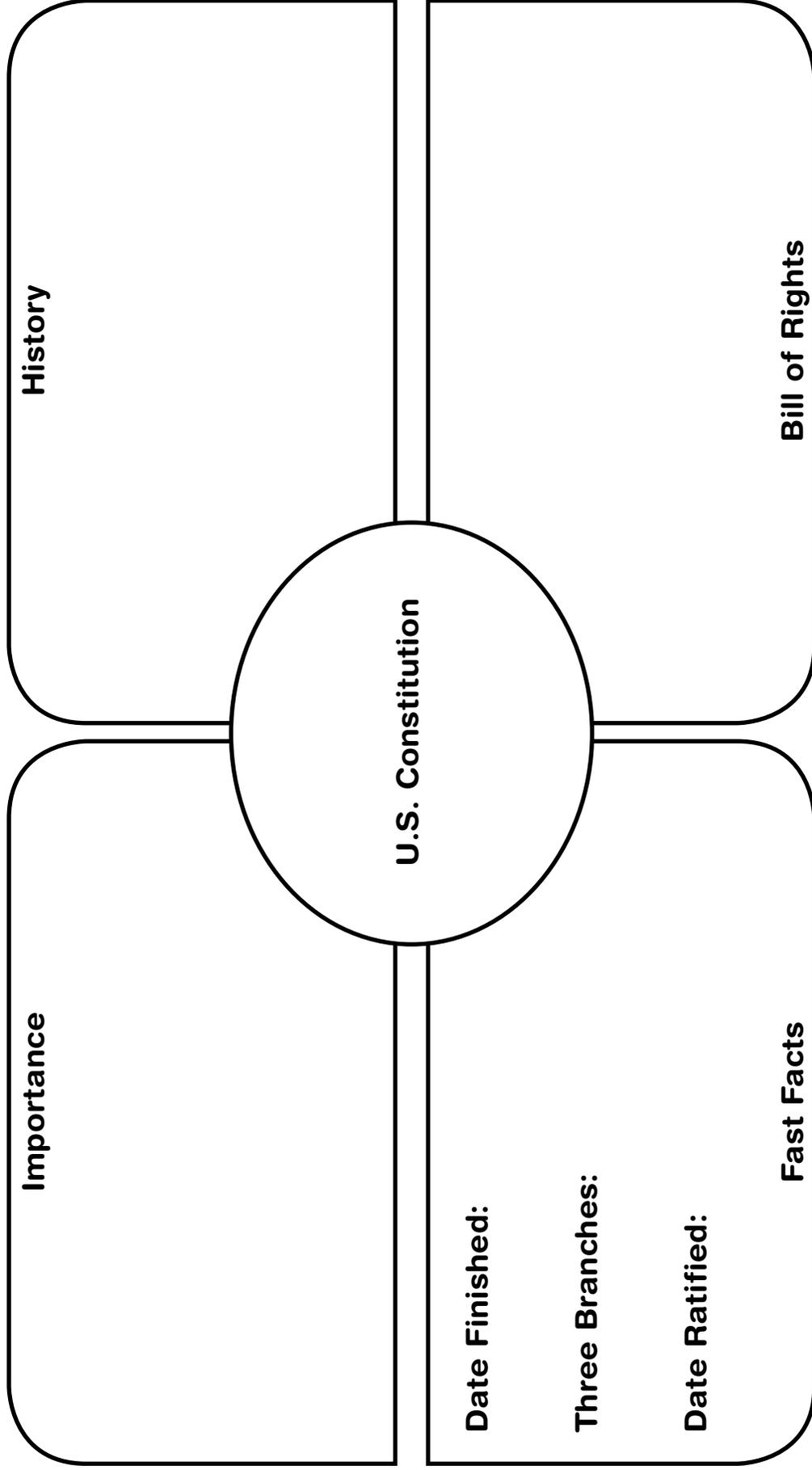15. Students may create posters to honor the U.S. Constitution for display on September 17.

Extend/Enrich

16. Students can write a paragraph explaining the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

17. Students can create a slideshow about the U.S. Constitution to share with younger students so they can learn the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Constitution

Take notes about the U.S. Constitution in the graphic organizer below. Print one picture about the U.S. Constitution and staple it to this page.

History

Importance

U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

Fast Facts

Date Finished:

Three Branches:

Date Ratified:

Bibliography: _____ .