



Mini-Thinking Pages Lesson Strategies

Learning Objectives: The student will understand the principles of the Constitution. Students will analyze primary sources documents, while using thinking strategies.

TEKS: 8.15D

Materials Needed: Copies of Mini-Thinking Pages for each student and access to the LRE website <https://texasire.org/liam-learns/> to show the videos.

Teacher Background: The following lesson plan is designed to accompany the Liam Learns: *7 Principles of the Constitution* video series.

Teaching Strategy: For each video in this series, we have provided a resource called a Mini-Thinking Page. Each page has some suggested processing strategies to enhance the learning of each of the 7 Principles of the Constitution. The page is also divided into two parts. The first part is guided learning, such as teacher directed or partner work with teacher guidance. The second part is for individual student practice or partner work practice. Teachers should give feedback when appropriate.

Separation of Power

Part 1 - Teacher Guided: Ask students to complete a thinking process called Cognitive Thinking Markers. Students will individually read the excerpt and use the provided thinking markers to mark up the excerpt.

- Circle - What type of document is this? Who is the author?
- Underline - What is the purpose of the document?
- Star - What is the main idea of the document?
- Box - Why is this document important?
- Question Mark - What parts of the document do you have questions about?
- P, E,S. - What category do you think the document belongs? Write out the following letters in the margin.
 - "P" for Political
 - "E" for Economic
 - "S" for Social

Teacher leads class discussion and gives feedback to students.

Part 2 - Student Practice: Students will work individually or with a partner to complete the Hot Text question by highlighting the sentence in the text that helps to answer the question. Students will also circle their answers from the multiple choices. Teacher leads class discussion and gives feedback to students.

Suggested Answers:

- B
- C



Thinking Strategy: Separation of Powers

Read the excerpt below and use the *Thinking Markers* to help you analyze the document. Add each symbol in the document.

- Circle - What type of document is this? Who is the author?
- Underline - What is the purpose of the document?
- Star - What is the main idea of the document?
- Box - Why is this document important?
- Question Mark - What parts of the document do you have questions about?
- P, E, S. - What category do you think the document belongs? Write out the following letters in the margin.
 - ⇒ "P" for Political
 - ⇒ "E" for Economic
 - ⇒ "S" for Social

Congress of the United States, begun and held at the City of New York on Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

CHAP. XX. An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the supreme court of the United States shall consist of a chief justice and five associate justices, any four of whom shall be a quorum, and shall hold annually at the seat of government two sessions, the one commencing the first Monday of February, and the other the first Monday of August. That the associate justices shall have precedence according to the date of their commissions, or when the commissions of two or more of them bear date on the same day, according to their respective ages.

Excerpt of the Judiciary Act of 1789, which established the Federal Court System. – Source *Public Domain (Wikipedia)*.



Separation of Powers Student Practice:

Read the excerpt below and answer the question that follows. Choose **TWO** answers.

A

Congress of the United States, begun and held at the City of New York on Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

B

CHAP. XX. An Act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the supreme court of the United States shall consist

C

of a chief justice and five associate justices, any four of whom shall be a quorum, and shall hold annually at the seat of government two sessions, the one commencing the first Monday of February, and the other the first Monday of August. That the associate justices shall have

D

precedence according to the date of their commissions, or when the commissions of two or more of them bear date on the same day, according to their respective ages.

Determine which parts of the excerpt above helps to explain how the Judiciary Act of 1789, is an example of the principle of Separation of Powers?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D