



Lesson Title: Popular Sovereignty

Objective:

Students will be able to explain the concept of popular sovereignty and its role in the US government.

Materials:

- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Markers or chalk
- Handouts with the Preamble to the Constitution

Warm-Up:

- Ask students to define the term "sovereignty."
- Have students brainstorm a list of things that a sovereign entity has the power to do.

Direct Instruction:

- Write the term "popular sovereignty" on the board and explain that it is a political principle that the authority of a state and its government is created and sustained by the consent of its people, through their elected representatives.
- Remind students that the United States is a representative democracy, meaning that citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.
- Explain that the concept of popular sovereignty is reflected in the Preamble to the Constitution, which states that the Constitution was created "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."
- Have students read the Preamble and discuss the ways in which it reflects the principle of popular sovereignty.

Guided Practice:

- Divide the class into small groups and have each group come up with a list of ways in which citizens can participate in the democratic process, such as voting, running for office, attending town hall meetings, and writing to their representatives.
- Have each group share their list with the class and discuss the importance of citizen participation in a representative democracy.

Independent Practice:

Have students choose one of the ways in which they can participate in the democratic process and write a paragraph explaining why it is important for citizens to engage in this activity.

Closure:

Review the main points of the lesson and have students restate the definition of popular sovereignty.

Ask students to reflect on the ways in which they can participate in the democratic process and the importance of citizen participation in a representative democracy.

Assessment:

Collect and assess the paragraphs written by students on the importance of citizen participation in the democratic process.