

## LESSON 21: The Constitution Center

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<b>Objective</b>	
Students will be able to explain how the Founding Fathers established liberty for all Americans. Students will be able to apply the concept of balance of powers to their own classroom.	
<b>Guiding Questions</b>	
How did the Founding Fathers establish liberty for all Americans? How do the 3 branches of government help to ensure fairness in government?	
<b>Lesson Vocabulary</b>	
Covenant, Deliberations, Venerable	
<b>Lower Grade Activity</b>	<b>Upper Grade Activity</b>
<b>Anticipatory Question:</b> What does the word liberty mean to you? <b>Activity:</b> The first Liberty Tree was in Boston. The Sons of Liberty used this tree as a meeting place to protest the Stamp Act. Other Liberty Trees were established in other colonies. Have students draw leaves on The Liberty Tree handout. Inside each leaf, they should write one of the freedoms our Founding Fathers fought for. Then have the students color/decorate their tree. <b>Share:</b> Have students hang their trees in the room.	<b>Anticipatory Question:</b> What are the roles of the 3 branches of government? <b>Activity:</b> The US Constitution created 3 branches of government in the United States: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Divide students into 3 groups and assign each group one of the branches of government. Have students create laws (rules) for the classroom the way the 3 branches of government would. The executive branch proposes a law; the legislative branch votes for/against the law; and the judicial branch decides what consequences students should receive if they break the laws or if the laws are fair. <b>Share:</b> This concept can be used throughout the year to create new rules and review infractions.
<b>Additional Resources</b>	
A great interactive activity for students to learn more about the 3 branches of government: <a href="http://www.texaslr.org/branches_game/branches_game.html">http://www.texaslr.org/branches_game/branches_game.html</a> "How to Vote from the Historic Judeo-Christian Perspective" A guide outlining how to approach the voting process while considering moral and religious beliefs. <a href="http://providenceforum.org/votersguide">http://providenceforum.org/votersguide</a>	
<b>Additional Activities</b>	
Have students create a life size Liberty Tree incorporating their smaller trees into one large class tree. Partner up with 2 other teachers in your grade to organize a larger scale student government. Each class will represent one branch of the government and come together to make decisions affecting the school.	
<b>Materials Needed</b>	
Copies of <i>The Liberty Tree</i> activity Information on the roles of the 3 branches of government	
<b>Common Core Standards</b>	
<b>K-5:</b> Reading 1, Writing 7, 8 <b>6-12:</b> Reading 1, 4, and Speaking and Listening 1, 4	

# The Liberty Tree

