

1. U.S. History

This lesson focuses on the history of the United States. One of the United States' most important events was the signing of the country's constitution on 17th September 1787.

Level

Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Tell the class you are going to give them a text about the history of the United States, and that the text comes in three parts. Each student will be given one part to read.
2. Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a copy of Worksheet A divided into three parts (A, B and C). Give the students at least five minutes to read their part of the text, and encourage them to look up any new vocabulary. Make it clear that you are going to take their pieces of paper away from them when the time is up, and that it is therefore important that they try to remember as much of the texts as possible.
3. Collect the pieces of paper and give each group a copy of Worksheet B and Worksheet C. Give them at least ten minutes to work together to complete the crossword (to refresh the students' memories you could perhaps provide them with a few of the letters from the missing words) and the multiple-choice questions.
4. When the time is up, give out Worksheet A again so that the students can check any questions they weren't able to answer.
5. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Crossword:

1. Virginia 2. ninety 3. colonies 4. four 5. indigenous 6. slavery 7. grow 8. break
 9. first 10. monarchies 11. maintain 12. California 13. English 14. settlers 15. property
 16. constitution

If all the gaps have been filled correctly, *George Washington* should read from top to bottom.

Multiple choice:

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. c

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.historyplace.com/>

Homepage of the website *The History Place*, with links to various articles on United States history. Intermediate level and above.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_United_States

Wikipedia entry for the history of the United States. Upper intermediate and above.

<http://www.usahistory.com/trivia/histtriv.htm>

Trivia quizzes based on United States history, click on one of the categories such as 'Landmarks and Symbols', 'Native American History' and 'Everyday Life', found on the left-hand side of the screen. Intermediate level and above.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/1523100.stm>

Article from BBC website giving overview of the slave trade between fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, with links to other slavery-related articles. Intermediate level and above.