

American Heritage Discussion Series: Learners with Littles

Session II: Federal Constitution-Making

Lesson for Children

- Instructor reads [*The Protector of Peace: A Haudenosaunee Story*](#)
 - Points to emphasize
 - There were 5 tribes that were warring with one another. A man who came to be known as the Peace Maker helped to create a peace agreement among the tribes. As a symbol of the peace agreement, the tribe members put their weapons of war at the bottom of a great pine tree. This pine tree came to be a symbol of the peace. This book tells the story of a young eagle learning about the peace, perching in the peace tree, and growing into his responsibility to be a protector of the peace.
 - Details might mention that are not in the story
 - The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) is an example of federalism. This means that each tribe stayed its own tribe and agreed to unite with other tribes to solve problems that impacted all the tribes.
 - When the Framers of the Constitution were looking for examples of successful government, the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) was one of the successful examples they knew about.
 - Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and John Adams each knew about the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) as an example of federalism when they were working on designing a new government for the United States.
 - In 1988 the United States Congress officially recognized the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Constitution.
- **Toddlers can dismiss to their table if they are wiggly**
- Instructor reads parts from [*George Washington and the Story of the U.S. Constitution*](#)
 - Emphasis on
 - Long ago the United States had problems, so some leaders gathered in a city called Philadelphia to help solve the problems. This gathering was called the Constitutional Convention.
 - George Washington was the hero of the war the United States just won. He agreed to lead the Constitutional Convention. He sat in a special chair with an image of the sun.
 - See a picture of the chair [at this link](#).
 - James Madison was another leader who had good ideas for solving problems.
 - The leaders in the Convention disagreed on how to solve the country's problems so they had trouble working out the problems.
 - The leaders took a break on the Fourth of July to celebrate American independence and to watch fireworks.

- Benjamin Franklin encouraged the leaders in the Convention to look for ways they can agree.
- The leaders finally agreed on ways to solve their problems. They called the agreement a Constitution. It began with “We the People.” This meant that the people could speak up to solve problems in the future.
- Benjamin Franklin said the sun on George Washington’s special chair meant the country’s future was bright.
- The Constitution did not become the law until it went to the people in the states to debate and decide if they wanted to accept it.
- After lots of debate among the people, the Constitution became the law of the land.
- Watch [SchoolHouse Rock Preamble](#) video on YouTube
 - Emphasis on the phrases of the Preamble
 - We the People
 - in Order to form a more perfect Union...
 - Then it outlines the responsibilities of government
 - The phrase We the People has expanded since the Constitution was created to include women and people of color.
- Separate into craft stations
 - Haudenosaunee Wampum Belt
 - Puppets of Framers George Washington and James Madison
 - Preamble coloring page
 - We the People Paper Chain
 - Getting Everyone in the Home to Agree to New Rules