The Constitutional Convention: INFER Thinking Routine

In Partnership with Teaching American History

Task: Use the INFER thinking routine to analyze historical interpretations of the Constitutional Convention.

Overview: Throughout American history, artists have created their own interpretations of the Constitutional Convention. Use the steps and guiding questions in the graphic organizer below to analyze these representations and consider how each artist has interpreted the event.

I.N.F.E.R.

***I**magine. **N**otice. **F**ind the Difference. **E**valuate. **R**eimagine.*

Aspect of I.N.F.E.R.	Guiding Questions
Imagine *In the box below, briefly sketch what you expect to see in an artist's rendering of the Constitutional Convention.*	Who is present? What are they doing? How are they dressed? Where are they? What does it look like? What other objects are present? What is the tone?

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Aspect of I.N.F.E.R.	Guiding Questions	Your Responses
Notice *Look at the artistic renderings of the Constitutional Convention & write down your noticings.*	What do you see? What do you not see that you might have expected? Who or what is foregrounded or highlighted? What perspectives are represented? What perspectives are not represented?	
Find differences *Write down the differences between what you have drawn and the artistic representations of the Constitutional Convention.*	How does your imagining differ from the artistic representations of the Constitutional Convention? What did you include/omit that the artists did not?	
Evaluate *Explain what the artifact reveals about the Constitutional Convention, the creator's perspective, and how this compares with your initial sketch.*	What does the visual artifact teach you about the historical period or the Convention? What does the visual artifact teach you about the perspectives and/or biases of the artist? What does your initial imagining teach you about your own perspectives, biases, or understanding of the Convention?	
Reimagine *Return to your original image and recontextualize it – thinking about what might be beyond the borders of the image itself.*	What might you see? What/ who else might be there? What/ who else could be there? What additional historical context might inform what you would see if the frame were expanded?	

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