



RESOURCE COLLECTION

America's Founding

[Teaching American History](#) offers a wealth of primary sources on topics across U.S. history, with especially rich collections on America's founding and the creation of the Constitution. Through our partnership with Teaching American History, lilyPD has developed five classroom-ready activities that pair these sources with instructional strategies from six lilyPD courses. Explore the collection below, or find all the resources in the Teach section of lilyPD by selecting Teaching American History under the Partner filter.



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lilyPD Course	Topic	Resources	Description
Artifact Analysis	Artistic representations of the Constitutional Convention	I.N.F.E.R. Thinking Routine Student Activity Teaching Guide	Students use the I.N.F.E.R. thinking routine to closely examine artistic interpretations of the Constitutional Convention. They identify details, generate questions, draw evidence-based inferences, and consider how artists shape our understanding of historical events. Grades 5-12.
Nonfiction Reading Strategies	Phillis Wheatley's poetry and the Revolutionary era	Explore Word Gaps Reading Strategy Video Student Activity	Students investigate unfamiliar, complex, or historically significant language in Phillis Wheatley's poetry . By exploring "word gaps," they build vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, and consider how word choice contributes to a text's meaning and historical context. Grades 6-12.
Civil Discourse in the Classroom	The debate over the ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights	Pinwheel Discussion Video Teaching Guide Student Activity	Students examine arguments surrounding the ratification of the Constitution and participate in a structured pinwheel discussion. The activity asks students to represent multiple perspectives, respond to evidence, and consider why disagreements emerged over the Constitution and the need for a Bill of Rights. Grade 9-12.
Historical Inquiry and The Horizon of Independence!	Drafting the Declaration of Independence	Mini-DBQ Video Student Activity	Students analyze the edited draft of the Declaration of Independence alongside the Virginia Declaration of Rights . They compare the documents, evaluate revisions, and develop an evidence-based response about what the drafting process reveals about the patriot cause in 1776. Grades 6-12.
Podcasting for Educators	Philadelphia and the Constitutional Convention of 1787	Audio Tour Podcast Project Teaching Guide Student Activity	Students use Teaching American History's interactive map of historic Philadelphia to investigate a location connected to the Constitutional Convention. They then create a short audio-tour podcast episode explaining how the site influenced, reflected, or related to the nation's founding. Grades 4-8.