



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

PREAMBLE QUILT By Donna Coffin

Activity Description

Students will work with a partner to create a quilt square explaining vocabulary of the Preamble. Squares will be taped together in order of the words of the Preamble. This activity will integrate with Lesson 11 in *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*.

David Catrow's book, *We the Kids*, gives a summary of the Preamble portion of the U.S. Constitution and explains the words and phrases in child-friendly terms. Explain that the author wants to share some information that he feels is important about how we can take the big words that adults use in the Preamble and make them easier to understand by using words we already know. Read the author's ideas and discuss with the class. Tell the students to follow the dog in the book because he will help them understand the big words. Then work on a class project to help the kids understand these words, too. Read the book and allow time for the students to view and comment on the illustrations.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary

Estimated Time to Complete

Approximately a week to complete the entire lesson.

Objective

Students will be able to identify the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution and explain the meaning through words and pictures.

Materials Needed

- *We the Kids* by David Catrow
- Vocabulary Cards twelve words/phrases from the Preamble and corresponding definitions written in child-friendly language from *We the Kids*
- Twelve nine by nine-inch squares of white paper
- Crayons, colored pencils, pencils

Procedures: Class Project

1. Pre-make vocabulary cards—twelve words/phrases from the Preamble and corresponding definitions written in child-friendly language from *We the Kids*.

2. The students will work with a partner to create a quilt square explaining the vocabulary of the Preamble. Tell the students that their partner will be determined by finding the vocabulary word or phrase and definition that match. Students will select a card and discuss the card with classmates to find the match. Allow the students to use the book as a reference.
3. Once students are matched, go through the book again and have students line up in order of the words of the Preamble.
4. Have each student read his/her card/definition to reinforce learning.
5. Provide a written example of the completed quilt square with the big words written on the top of the square, the child-friendly definitions on the bottom of the square, and an illustration to support the meaning in the center.
6. Provide a square for each pair. When complete, have students put themselves in order and each pair reads and explains their square.
7. Tape the squares together and display the "Preamble Quilt."