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Principles of the Constitution 8th Grade U.S. History Lesson Plan: Constitution Cookies and Founding Principles

Essential Question: What documents and principles influenced the U.S. Constitution?

Lesson Objective: Students will be able to identify the principles and documents that form the foundation of the U.S. Constitution.

Materials needed:

- PowerPoint
- Constitution cookie worksheet
- Chocolate chip cookies

This lesson is meant to illustrate the different documents and philosophers who influenced the content of the Constitution. Students should already have a background knowledge of the Constitution consisting of why a formal Constitution was needed, as well as what it was meant to accomplish.

Plan:

1. Hand out copies of the Constitution Cookies & Incorporated Principles worksheet.
2. Each slide on the PowerPoint illustrates a different influence on the Constitution.

Students are to fill in the correct ingredient, as well as take notes on the incorporated principles from that document or philosopher.

3. Optional: You could pull out each ingredient and make the cookie dough as the different principles are discussed. (I did this once with a class, and they loved it)

4. Hand out a chocolate chip cookie to each student, and discuss what the cookie would taste like had one of the ingredients not been added. Tie this back to the documents and philosophers. Ask: Would this document have lasted as long as it has? Why have other countries modeled their Constitutions after ours? Is there anything missing from this recipe?

**email me if you want a digital copy of the powerpoint.