

# Lesson Overview

**Background:** On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed and signed the U.S. Constitution. A joint resolution passed in 1956 requested President Eisenhower to proclaim the week beginning September 17 each year as “Constitution Week.” A later amendment, known as Public Law 108-477, requires all schools that receive federal funds hold an educational program for their students on September 17 of each year to honor and celebrate the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, as well as to commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of our land.

**Recommended Grade Level:** 5

**Time Required:** 30 minutes per activity or three hours total

## Pre-Visit

Prior to the Constitution Day visit, the school’s teaching staff should introduce the three branches of government and its correlating vocabulary. Additionally, if the school has iPads available for their visit, familiarize students with the Pic Collage app and direct students to create a collage template with nine frames and the title “Presidential Pics.”

**Visit Schedule** *Activity times will be adjusted based on your school’s arrival time.*

Depending on class size, your students will be divided into smaller groups of no more than 25 to rotate through the various activities.

Time	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
9:30 - 9:55 a.m.	Arrive - Welcome/Introduction <i>Library Courtyard</i>			
10:00 - 10:25 a.m.	Activity 1 <i>Library Courtyard</i>	Activity 2 <i>Museum Classroom</i>	Activity 3 <i>Visitor’s Center</i>	Activity 4 <i>Museum Presidential Gallery</i>
10:30 - 10:55 a.m.	Activity 4 <i>Museum Presidential Gallery</i>	Activity 1 <i>Library Courtyard</i>	Activity 2 <i>Museum Classroom</i>	Activity 3 <i>Visitor’s Center</i>
11:00 - 11:25 a.m.	Activity 3 <i>Visitor’s Center</i>	Activity 4 <i>Museum Presidential Gallery</i>	Activity 1 <i>Library Courtyard</i>	Activity 2 <i>Museum Classroom</i>
11:30 - 11:55 a.m.	Activity 2 <i>Museum Classroom</i>	Activity 3 <i>Visitor’s Center</i>	Activity 4 <i>Museum Presidential Gallery</i>	Activity 1 <i>Library Courtyard</i>
12:00 - 12:25 p.m.	Wrap-up <i>Library Auditorium</i>			
12:30 p.m.	Depart			

## Activity Descriptions

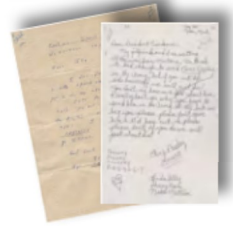
### **\*Welcome/Introduction:**

- Ike EDucation staff welcomes students and bridges topics of Constitution Day, the Executive Branch, and Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- Students break into groups to begin activity rotation.



### **\*Activity 1:**

- “Holding History”: Examination of kids’ letters to President Eisenhower.
  - \* Why is the child writing to the President? (topics of the time period, purpose)
  - \* How is this citizen interacting with the Executive Branch?



### **\*Activity 2:**

- “Dear Mr. President”: Students will write their own letter (postcard) to the current Executive Branch.



### **\*Activity 3:**

- The U.S. flag: In this activity, students will learn about the evolution of the U.S. flag, its symbols, and how citizens and President Eisenhower contributed to the current day flag.



### **\*Activity 4:**

- “Presidential Pics”: While in the Presidential Gallery of the Eisenhower Museum, students will look for items to create a collage on their school iPad, using the app “Pic Collage.”

*\*If the school does NOT have iPads available for their visit, this activity will be replaced by a gallery picture hunt.*



### **\*Wrap-Up:**

- Ike EDucation staff will use a video and recall questions to reinforce what the students have learned about Constitution Day, the Executive Branch, and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

## Post-Visit

Ike EDucation staff will mail student postcards to President Obama.