

Teacher Resources

Objective 042

Practice for Task 1: American Institutions

Students will read level-appropriate material about an important American institution and answer reading questions.

Introductory Activities:

Explore American Institutions:

- Supreme Court
Watch: Inside the Supreme Court CNN
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Unyswl36q8w>
- White House
Watch: Virtual Field Trip: The White House
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCeT6WO121I>
- California State Capitol
- California Missions
Watch: Mission San Juan Capistrano
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noPjuWwlmRY>
- U.S. Department of the Treasury

Ask students:

- What is the function of this institution?
- What services are provided?
- What is the correct level of government associated with this place?
- Why is this place important in the U.S.?

Optional Activities

- Students create a “tour” of one of the American institutions above for their classmates.
- Students go on “online fieldtrips” to any place listed above. Students click on “about” or “visitor information” and share findings with class.
- Use level appropriate practice assessment on the Library of Congress in resource packet.

Related Grammar Points:

- Practice capitalization as it relates to proper nouns and institutions and titles.
 - Explanation and exercises at Grammarbank.com
<https://www.grammarbank.com/common-proper-nouns.html>
 - Proper nouns exercise for beginners at Englishpractice.com
<https://www.englishpractice.com/children/proper-nouns-exercise-beginner-level/>
 - Take an online quiz on proper vs. common nouns at Englishgrammar.com
<https://www.englishgrammar.org/proper-nouns-common-nouns/>
 - Use “the chocolate man” handout in resource packet to practice capitalization rules.

Practice Capitalization Rules

the chocolate man

(adapted from Stories Worth Reading by Betsy Cassriel and Gail Reynolds)

Directions: Add capital letters where they are needed.

Milton hershey was born in 1857 in pennsylvania. his family was very poor. when milton was 14, he started working with a candy maker, fred smith. later milton opened a candy factory. in 1894, milton hershey went to the world's fair in chicago, illinois. he saw a man from germany making chocolate bars. most americans did not know about chocolate bars, so milton decided to try making chocolate bars at his factory. hershey's chocolate became very popular. milton bought sugar plants because he needed lots of sugar to produce chocolate. in 1907, the company began to produce hershey kisses. they are especially popular on valentine's day, which occurs in february every year. many people also give chocolate gifts on easter, which occurs in march or april. milton became rich selling so much chocolate. soon milton built a town in pennsylvania. he even named two streets in the new town for his products: cocoa avenue and chocolate avenue. milton and his wife cathy built a special school for orphan boys. the school is still open and the town of hershey is visited by many tourists every year because it is famous for its chocolate.

QUESTION: How many capitalization rules can you list?

Practice for Task 2: Famous American Presentation

Students will select a famous American to research and share their findings in an oral presentation. Students will work in a group and create a supporting visual aid.

Selecting a Person to Research

- Groups could consider:
 - Are there any famous Americans that group members are already knowledgeable about?
 - What topics interest students in terms of American history?
 - America gaining its independence?
 - America's earliest leaders?
 - Racial inequality and civil rights?
 - Gender inequality and women's rights?
 - Americans of diverse cultures?
- Visit the link below for ideas: Famous Americans on the Civics Test
https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/Famous_Americans_classroom.pdf

Optional Activities:

Textbook Resources: "Presidential Profiles" pgs. 188-194 in *Voices of America*

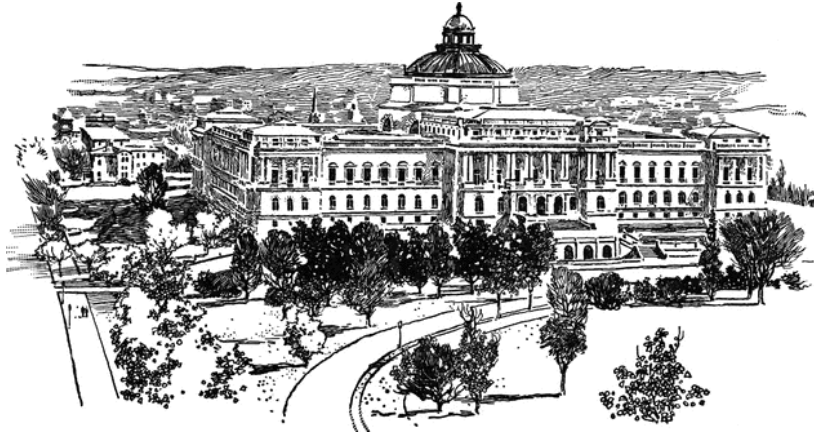
- Using profiles, ask students:
 - What is this person's current/past position?
 - What is this person's background information (date and place of birth)?
 - Why is this person an important figure in American history?
 - What contribution did this person make to American society?
 - How has this person affected American society?
 - What does this person mean to you?
- Interview role-play: One student assumes the role of American figure. The other student interviews the American figure and shares his/her findings with class. See handout in resource packet.
- Use Martin Luther King Jr. sample presentation on Powerpoint on our online Adult Education Faculty Resources EL Civics page.

Review rubric criteria with students, so they know how they will be assessed.

Related Vocabulary:

- institution
- position
- background
- function
- role
- inspiring
- American "figure"
- effect
- biographical
- contribution
- significance

Task 1 Practice
The Library of Congress
Beginning 3



The Library of Congress located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., is the research library of the U.S. Congress, and is considered the national library of the United States. It is also the largest library in the world, with a collection of more than 164 million items.

Interesting Facts about The Library of Congress

- The Library was built in 1800.
- The library has the papers of 23 U.S. presidents, ranging from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge.
- The Library of Congress is free and open to the public.

Task 1 Practice
Library of Congress Reading Questions
Beginning 3

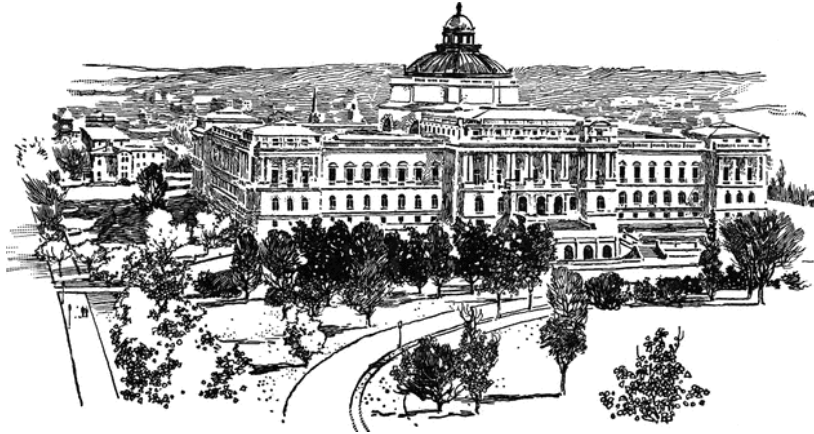
1. Where is the Library of Congress?

2. Is the Library of Congress open to the public?

3. How does the U.S. Congress *use* the library?

4. What is one interesting fact about the Library of Congress?

Task 1 Practice
The Library of Congress
Intermediate 1- Advanced



The Library of Congress, housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., is the research library of the U.S. Congress, and is considered the national library of the United States. It is also the largest library in the world, with a collection of more than 164 million items.

Interesting Facts about The Library of Congress

- The Library was founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation.
- The Law Library of Congress is the world's largest law library, with more than 2.9 million volumes, including one of the world's best rare law book collections.
- The library has the papers of 23 presidents, ranging from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge.
- The U.S. Copyright Office is located within the Library of Congress. It administers the Nation's copyright laws for the advancement of the public good, offers services and support to authors and users of creative works, and provides expert impartial assistance to Congress, the courts and executive branch agencies on questions of copyright law and policy.
- The Library of Congress is free and open to the public. Visitors do not need tickets or reservations to enter the Jefferson Building or to visit the Library's public spaces and exhibitions.

Task 1 Practice
Library of Congress Reading Questions
Intermediate 1- Advanced

1. Where is the Library of Congress?

2. Who does the Library of Congress serve?

3. What is the U.S. Copyright Office?

4. Is the Library of Congress open to the public?

5. What are two examples of important documents and collections the Library of Congress has?

6. What are two interesting facts about the Library of Congress?

Task 2

Famous American Presentation Teacher Instructions

Step 1: Form groups

- Divide class into groups of 3.

Step 2: Students choose a figure from American history

1. Have students pick an American figure to research.
2. Make sure all groups have selected a different figure.

Step 3: Students research American figure

1. Handout presentation planner and give students time to find information about their person.
2. Direct students to websites or other helpful resources. Research can be done on their phones if necessary.
 - Students can research information as homework and bring findings to class to prepare.

Step 4: Students create visual aid

1. Instruct students to create a visual aid to support their presentation.
2. Provide materials for visual aid if unable to make Powerpoint presentation.

Step 5: Students choose talking points

1. Instruct students to pick a level appropriate talking point as their responsibility
2. Groups with uneven numbers (more or less than 3 students) need to divide the speaking points as equally as possible.
3. ALL students must share an answer for talking point 4

Step 6: Students practice their presentation

- Give students time to practice their presentation using their notes and visual aid.

Step 7: Presentation day

- Students share their presentation in groups
- If a student is absent, the rest of the group can present their sections and visual aid. The absent student must present the entire presentation to the teacher as make-up to receive credit for the task.

Step 8: Grade presentation using rubric

Task 2

Helpful Websites for Research

America's Library (Beginning-Advanced)

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/>

At this website, students can learn about the inventors, politicians, and activists that make America the country that it is today. Biographies are short in length and easy to read. Have students go to website and click on "Meet Amazing Americans". Students select from the categories on the left (e.g. leaders and statesmen, U.S. Presidents")

Biography Online (Beginning- Intermediate)

<https://www.biographyonline.net/people/america/famous-americans.html>

Find condensed bios in short paragraph format for famous Americans at this website. Go to link and select from Famous Americans listed or click on "Biographies" at top of screen and select from categories listed (e.g. Military, Politicians)

Biography.com (Intermediate- Advanced)

<https://www.biography.com/people>

Have students click on "people" at the top of the website to search for their famous person. Search results will brief biographies and related short videos.

History.com (Intermediate- Advanced)

<https://www.history.com>

Students can find more specific information about their person at this website. Have students search at the top right of screen. Search results will yield basic short bios as well as results like "10 Things You May Not Know About Abraham Lincoln," for example.

TASK 2

Famous American Role-Play Interview

1. What is your name?
2. When were you born?
3. What is your current position?
4. What is one important thing you have done for the U.S.?
5. What is one interesting fact about you?
6. How do you want people to remember you?