

MEET THE SIGNER, READ THE SOURCE: GEORGE MASON

Teacher Resource

Background

In this activity, students will get to know one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence by exploring both their life story and one of their original writings from the *Founders' Library*.

Meet George Mason

Share this video about George Mason to learn more about his life and the role in the American Revolution.

Share the Signer's Source

Next, share [Objections to the Constitution of Government formed by the Convention](#), written by George Mason. There are reading comprehension questions that correspond with this source to deepen understanding and build connections.

Supporting Vocabulary

These definitions might support student learning as they read the primary source.

- **Paramount:** More important than anything else.
- **Tedious:** Boring and taking a long time.
- **Enumerated:** Listed one by one.
- **Aristocracy:** A group of rich or powerful people who often inherit their status.

Comprehension Questions

These comprehension questions are also included in the student version of the primary source.

1. What concerns does Mason have regarding the new constitution? Cite two examples from the reading.
2. Mason writes “the President will be directed by Minions & Favourites.” Do you think this is a legitimate concern for a single executive?
3. Which of Mason’s concerns do you think is the most legitimate?
4. Which one do you think is the least concerning?

Extension Activity: Show What You Know

Students can use a Venn Diagram to compare George Mason’s [Objections to the Constitution of Government formed by the Convention](#) and James Wilson’s [Speech at a Public Meeting in Philadelphia](#) and recognize common themes.