



#8974

LIKE TAKING A CANDY FROM A BABY

Grade Levels: 8-13+

30 minutes

VIDEO RESOURCES SOFTWARE 1999

DESCRIPTION

Mr. Tang is about to lose his house to scam artists in the city. Law enforcement and city personnel infiltrate the crooks, gather evidence, and make arrests. After the drama, a short documentary reviews the establishment of American government based on the rule of law--the Constitution. The drama illustrates that, regardless of circumstances, legal action cannot occur until the rule of law is met.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To define rule of law.
2. To identify the purpose of a constitution.
3. To specify the purposes of government in the United States.
4. To learn how the U.S. government is organized.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Like Taking Candy From a Baby is one of 15 thirty-minute episodes found in the *On Common Ground* series. *On Common Ground* is a different and exciting way to learn about U.S. history and government. Each episode includes an action-filled story and a short documentary segment. The stories show the "common ground"—the common values that people in the United States share.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Articles of Confederation | 7. fraud |
| 2. charter | 8. mortgage |
| 3. common good | 9. proportional representation |
| 4. constitution | 10. scam |
| 5. contract | 11. under duress |
| 6. documented | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Consider the following during viewing:
 - a. What is meant by the rule of law?
 - b. Who is responsible for enforcing the rule of law?
 - c. How does government provide for the common good?



2. Who was John Locke? Briefly explain his concept of natural law.
3. Thomas Jefferson, in drafting the Declaration of Independence, relied on John Locke's concept of natural law. Briefly review the writings of Locke and Jefferson and answer the following:
 - a. Why are governments created?
 - b. Why is the establishment of a government necessary?
 - c. What is meant by "the rule of law"?
 - d. How does the Constitution represent the natural rights philosophy expounded by Locke and Jefferson?
4. Think about the series title, *On Common Ground*, and the video title, *Like Taking Candy from a Baby*. What feelings and ideas do the titles provoke? Share these with the class.
5. Discuss the vocabulary words utilized in the video.



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Review the "Turning Points" segment of the video and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why did the Framers of the Constitution believe that there was a need to strengthen the national government?
 - b. What specific issues did George Washington have in mind when he referred to the Articles of Confederation as a "half-starved, limping government, always moving on crutches, and tottering at every step"?
 - c. How did delegates to the Federal Convention insure that a stronger national government would not violate the philosophy of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence?
 - d. What limits did they place on the national government?
 - e. How did they insure that the rule of law applied to people in positions of authority as well as ordinary citizens?
2. In the video, Mr. Tang borrowed money from a private lending company and used his home as collateral. In this situation scam artists took advantage of an unsuspecting older person desperate for money to pay medical bills. Government took action to insure that laws were enforced.
 - a. Does government have the legitimate power, under the rule of law, to protect individuals from foolish business deals?
 - b. Are consumer protection and truth in advertising laws an infringement of the rights of individuals to conduct business transactions? Explain.
 - c. What limits, if any, should determine proper government action?



Applications and Activities

1. Lead a class discussion based on the following questions:
 - a. What laws do you have to obey in your daily life in the United States?
 - b. What is the basis of these laws?
 - c. Why does a country need written laws?
2. Find the names and addresses of the two U.S. Senators from your state and the member of the House of Representative elected from your district. Investigate these people and share with the class. For example:
 - a. What political party do they belong to?
 - b. How many years have they been in office?
 - c. When are their terms complete?
3. Choose one of the following:
 - a. The Preamble to the Constitution states the purposes of government in the United States. Create a bulletin board displaying these purposes.
 - b. Create a bulletin board showing how the U.S. government is organized.
4. Examine current newspapers for a story resembling Mr. Tang's story.
 - a. How is this news story similar or different from that of Mr. Tang's?
 - b. What action was taken?
 - c. Did a governmental agency respond to protect the basic rights of citizens and promote the common good?
 - d. What can you determine from this story about the rule of law in our society?

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Domino Effect #8969
- Forms of Government: What's the Score? #3467



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S.**
<http://majoritywhip.house.gov/constitution/default.asp>
- **NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**
<http://www.nara.gov/exhall/charters/constitution/conmain.html>
- **BEN'S GUIDE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT**
<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/9-12/index.html>