

Teaching Montana's Constitution: Resources for Educators

For the 2026 Educators Conference in Great Falls by the Friends of the Montana Constitution

Visit MontanaConstitution.org/resources for a full list and links to learn more.

Textbooks and Publications

Montana: Stories of the Land (Designed for grades 7-8)

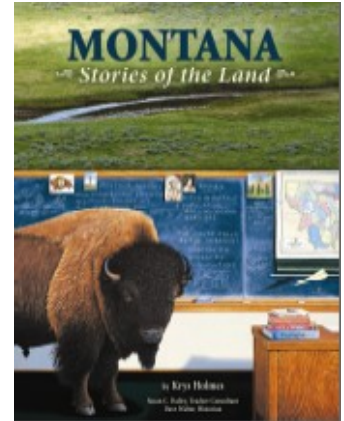
Chapter 21: A People's Constitution

Two worksheets available:

Reading a Map and Women in the Legislature

<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/StoriesOfTheLand/Part4/Chapter21/>

*Click "Additional Educational Resources" for more lesson plans and references

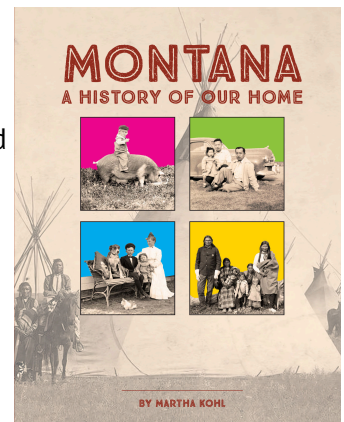


Montana: A History of our Home (Designed for grades 4-6)

Chapter 5: Montana's Government and Tribal Nations

*Download the Unit 5 Teacher's Guide for two lesson plans on the constitution and government including a classroom mingle on the preamble and a worksheet for writing a classroom preamble

<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/Elementary/HistoryOfOurHome>



The Montana 1972 Constitutional Convention Lesson Plan

(Designed for grades 11-12) 31 page toolkit/lesson plan in 4 parts:

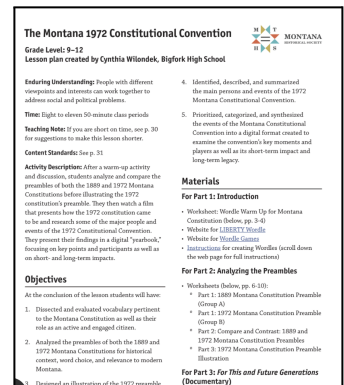
Part 1: Introducing the Lesson: Wordle Warm-Up

Part 2: Analyzing the Preamble: 4 worksheets that compare and contrast of 1889 and 1972 preamble, and a preamble illustration worksheet

Part 3: For This and Future Generations (Documentary): "jigsaw" activity in home groups in 6 parts, with a worksheet to help guide the "experts group" activity

Part 4: Creating a Montana 1972 Con Con Yearbook: using digital newspapers and the 100 delegates book - google slides template provide and alignment to curriculum standards

<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/civicsandgeo>



"To Make a Better Place: For This and Future Generations" a Public Lands and Resource Law Review - Special Issue 2020

A series of 25 essays from Con Con delegates, Con Con staffers, Montana historians, politicians, and activists who were active and involved in the 1970s.

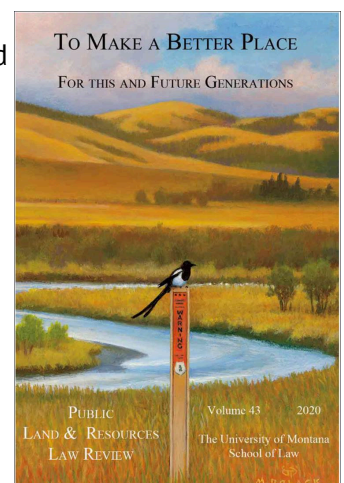
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/plrlr/vol43/iss1/>

Of particular interest:

"My Glory Days: How I Came To Be In The Right Place At The Right Time,"

"Montana's Need For Change: A Historical Context," and

"If You're Old Enough To Fight, You're Old Enough To Vote."



Videos and Recordings

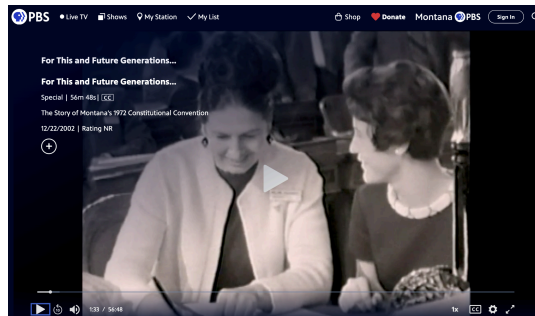
“For this and Future Generations”

<https://www.pbs.org/video/montanapbs-presents-for-this-and-future-generations/>

A 2002 award-winning PBS documentary by Gus Chambers and Paul Zalis

56:48 minutes long

*Excerpts of the documentary are available in two shorter versions mentioned below.



“Montana Mosaic 8: Montana's Quiet Revolution” by

the Montana Historical Society 23:16 minutes long

<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/MontanaMosaic/>

<https://youtu.be/lFYiwQt3n9s?si=9xJ9bR69yeLGMd-d>

“Montana Mosaics: 20th Century People and Events” from Montana PBS

Episode 101: Jeannette Rankin/Montana's Constitutional Congress

Montana Constitution section begins at 7:57, the whole video is 28:45

<https://www.montanapbs.org/programs/MontanaMosaics20thCenturyPeopleandEvents/montana-mosaics-20th-century-people-and-events/>

“Being in the Right Place at the Right Time” a lecture with Delegates Mae Nan Ellingson and Jerry

Loendorf, recorded March 19, 2026, 1:08:46 in length <https://youtu.be/oGYIJft3gMA?si=4iCqLDqR7Kpn-YOs>

“The Montana Constitution in Time” a lecture with the Honorable Anthony Johnstone for the first annual Montana Constitution Day, recorded March 20, 2026, 1:27:24 in length

https://youtu.be/Ru_xrSh7btE?si=tzEYhGqybAYf1klj

Online Collections and Resources

“The Montana Constitution Collection” from the University of Montana

A project of the Mansfield Center and the School of Law. Assembled in 2023, the collection consists of memos, proceedings, studies, papers and commentary as well as the full transcripts of the convention.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/montanaconstitution/>

“1972 Montana Constitutional Convention” from the Montana History Portal

A collection of historical images and documents hosted by the Montana State Library.

<https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/91422>

“100 Delegates: Montana Constitutional Convention of 1972” a 1989 Bicentennial Publication

Published book on all delegates. https://digitalcommons.mtech.edu/crucible_materials/6

“Last Best Constitution - Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention & Constitution”

A 2022 Video Series Created by Orphan Girl Productions and Helena Civic Television, 22 Episodes, each

1-hour long, moderated by Evan Barrett <https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/110606>