



## TITLE

# “CROOKED HISTORY” : HAWAI’I’S “BAYONET CONSTITUTION” OF 1887

GRADE LEVEL: MIDDLE SCHOOL

**SUBJECT:** Social Studies

**THEME:** Activism, Colonization, International Affairs

**STANDARDS:** Common Core English and Math

### OBJECTIVES:

**Students will be able to:**

- Describe the events in Hawai’i that led to the adoption of the “ Bayonet Constitution” of 1887.
- Assess the applicability of the quote by Jeannette Walls (below) to the events in Hawai’i as its sovereignty was weakened over time.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Why is it important to recognize how the Native Hawa’iian people confronted the United States as it used its power to control the island nation of Hawai’i?

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet access & devices if available
- Projection (visual and audio)
- Student devices with internet and recording access
- Physical space
- Art supplies

### CLASSROOM TIME:

1 to 2 Periods

CREDIT AUTHOR AND CONTACT: SANDY TING

RELEASE DATE: JUNE, 7TH, 2022  
LAST UPDATE: AUGUST, 1ST, 2024



## CONTEXT FOR THE LESSON:

For most Americans today, Hawai'i is simply seen as another one of the 50 states. Yes, to those on the mainland, it may seem an ideal vacation paradise with a uniquely diverse population, but lost to most students is an understanding of this Pacific island's history, how it lost its sovereignty, and how it came to be a part of the United States. By investigating a little-known event, students will gain an appreciation of the Native Hawai'iian culture and history, and how they struggled to retain their autonomy and identity. It is also a lesson about history: Who writes it? How does it get reinterpreted?

## ACTIVITIES:

### Show & Discuss Video: Hawai'i History: Timeline - Animation

- The video covers events quickly, so take your time and pause the video as necessary.

<https://youtu.be/w9I7qrUYpMw>

### See-Think-Wonder:

For guidance on how to use this strategy, see: See, Think, Wonder

- Ask students to popcorn share what they see.
- Ask students to popcorn share what they think.
- Ask students to popcorn share what they wonder.

### Openers:

Consider this quote: "History gets written by the winners, he said, and when the crooks win, you get crooked history." -Jeannette Walls, citing her father, Rex Walls Jeannette Walls - Wikipedia

Begin with a story that appeals to your students relevant to this quote. I usually share one about my sibling retelling a series of events to my parents and how they believe him instead of me to this very day. I describe how outraged and wronged I feel and all the reasons I react to certain things based on that event.

Ask students to think about this quote.

- Break the quote up and ask students what it means.
- When have you experienced your own crooked history?
- Share as a class or in groups.



**CREDIT AUTHOR  
AND CONTACT:**

SANDY TING

**RELEASE DATE:** JUNE, 7TH, 2022  
**LAST UPDATE:** AUGUST, 1ST, 2024





## ACTIVITY

- 1) Create a timeline: review parts of the film
- 2) Work in small groups or individually to recreate a narrative of events from both sides using one or more of the following options:
  - a) “Fakebook” - an educational tool that mimics Facebook that allows students to create comments and dialogue between characters based on profiles they create.  
<https://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page>
  - b) Write and record a play
  - c) Create a comic strip/graphic novel
- 3) Present students’ work to class, in stations, or as a museum walk.
- 4) Assessment activity: Revisit this quote: "History gets written by the winners, he said, and when the crooks win, you get crooked history." - Jeannette Walls, citing her father, Rex Walls
  - a) How does this quote apply to The Bayonet Constitution?
  - b) Whose story is being told?
  - c) Whose story is not being told?
  - d) Why does it matter to shift our lens from what we know to the possibility that another narrative is possible?
  - e) What happens when you get a single narrative?

## RESOURCES

Hawai'i History: Timeline - Animation  
<https://youtu.be/w9l7qrUYpMw>

Wikipedia Entry for Jeannette Walls  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanette\\_Walls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanette_Walls)

National Geographic, The Bayonet Constitution  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/jul6/bayonet-constitution/>

Hawai'i State Public Library System  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/2021/09/03/learn-about-hawaiian-history/>

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
<https://www.gohawaii.com/hawaiian-culture/history>



**CREDIT AUTHOR  
AND CONTACT:** SANDY TING

**RELEASE DATE:** JUNE, 7TH, 2022  
**LAST UPDATE:** AUGUST, 1ST, 2024

