

Title: Civil Liberties and 9/11

Grade Level:

Grade 5

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Abstract:

This unit examines the effects of 9/11 on two guarantees in the Preamble of the Constitution, the preservation of liberty and the establishment of common security. It is designed for students in grade 5. Depending on the type of classroom, this lesson would take three to five days.

State Standards:

B 8.2 Employ cause-and-effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and the present in United States and world history.

Essential Historical Question:

How have our personal liberties been affected by the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

Perspectives on the Question:

Before 9/11

What are our basic liberties?

During 9/11

What liberties were affected?

After 9/11

How have these liberties changed?

Learning Targets:

Knowledge

Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

Events of 9/11

Patriot Act

Liberties

Rights

Common defense

Privacy

Security

Skills and Processes

Cause and effect

Compare and contrast

Interview skills

Reasoning and Creative Thinking

Students should understand that history is a dialogue among historians about what happened and why and how it happened, what the causes and consequences of the event were, and how important the event was.

Dispositions and Attitudes

Respect for our liberties named in the Preamble of the Constitution.

Acknowledge changes in those liberties due to 9/11.

Instruction:

Preliminary Activities:

(Activating prior knowledge, identifying critical concepts, understanding the structure of sources)

KWL of events of 9/11

Vocabulary

Review events of 9/11

Preamble

Patriot Act

Cause and effect

Compare and contrast

New Learning Activities:

(Content of new information, strategies for understanding, creation and development of product or performance)

Introduce the unit with the excerpt “We Remember 9/11” from the book *American Moments* by Robert Burleigh.

Introduce review of the events of 9/11 with the first 3 slides of the teacher-created PowerPoint presentation. PowerPoint presentation is available from the Northeastern Wisconsin Teaching American History web site.

Discuss with students the meaning of the Preamble, why it was created, and the effects on our liberties.

Show and discuss the entire PowerPoint presentation.

Discuss with students the meaning of the Patriot Act, why it was created, and the effects on our liberties (see noted website for lesson plan and activity).

Students use graphic organizers to compare and contrast the guaranteed liberties of privacy and security in the Preamble with those same liberties in the Patriot Act.

Students will demonstrate their understanding by choosing one of the following options:

Interview with an adult

PowerPoint

Mobile

Poem

Song

Letter

Picture display

Post-Learning Activities:

(Personal connections, synthesis of new information into schema, re-thinking of past assumptions, Questions & Responses)

Small group sharing

Personal Reflection Sheet

Assessment:

Goal of Performance or Product:

Students will reflect on the events and effects of 9/11/

Students will demonstrate understanding of the connection between the events of 9/11 and the changes in our liberties.

Role of Student:

Create a display or product to share with the class

Resources:

Books:

Robert Burleigh, *American Moments* (2004).

David Catrow, *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States* (2002).

War on Terrorism, 12 book series published by ABDO Publishing Company (2002).

Internet Sources:

Gound Zero Photographs

http://www.nidhin.com/wtc_index.html

<http://www.galvanized.com/groundzero/qtindex.html>

<http://360vr.com/wfc/>

<http://www.earthcam.com/usa/newyork/groundzero/archives.html>

Teaching the Patriot Act to Elementary School Students

<http://www.law.indiana.edu/outreach/oll/PatriotAct.pdf>