

Freedom Matters Exhibit

George W. Bush Presidential Center 2023

Title: Freedom Matters Exhibit 2023, George W. Bush Presidential Center

Summary: Freedom Matters uses historical documents and personal perspectives to examine the concept of freedom—its origins, its meanings, what free societies look like, and the role of the individual in protecting and spreading freedom around the world. It also uses primary source documents to examine the American Experiment—highlighting time when freedom has expanded and contracted for individuals and groups in the United States.

Rationale: Freedom expands and contracts to reach, and at its worse, exclude individuals and groups based on political, economic and personal experiences.

Guiding Question: How has freedom evolved from democracy as it began in Greece to the American experiment today for individuals and groups, even if not a perfect system?

Recommended Grade Levels: 7, 8

Courses: Texas History, U.S History through Reconstruction

Time Required: 1 hour

Featured Document:

Grade 5 (U.S. History to 1877) *Magna Carta and Old English Statutes, Federalist, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, U.S. Constitution, Emancipation Proclamation, The Revolution, Martin Luther King, Jr., American with Disabilities Act*, Kiosk participation

Grade 6 (Contemporary World) *Magna Carta and Old English Statutes, Declaration of Independence, Federalist, Constitution, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Revolution, Americans with Disabilities Act, Bill of Rights*, Kiosk Participation

Vocabulary:

Grade 5 (U.S. History to 1877) Founding Fathers, sectionalism, states' rights, civil rights, division of labor, representative government, monarchy, three branches, checks and balances, duty to participate, fundamental rights, trial by jury, women's rights

Grade 6 (Contemporary World) rule by one, rule by few, rule by many, representative government

Lessons:

[Grade 5 \(U.S. History to 1877\)](#)

[Grade 6 \(Contemporary World\)](#)

Additional Resources: Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, U.S. Bill of Rights, Emancipation Proclamation, 13, 14, 15, 19th Amendments, Executive Order 9066, Martin Luther King, Jr. books and speeches