

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Summary: Freedom Matters uses historical documents and personal perspectives to examine the concept of freedom—its origins, its meanings, what free societies look like, and the role of the individual in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 7 (Texas History) Emancipation Proclamation, The Revolution, Martin Luther King, Jr., American with Disabilities Act, Kiosk participation

Grade 8 (U.S. History through Reconstruction) John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Magna Carta and Old English Statutes, Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, Constitution, Journal of First Senate Session, Kiosk Participation

Vocabulary:

Grade 7 (Texas History) women’s suffrage, Civil War, limited government, republicanism, federalism, popular sovereignty, individual rights

Grade 8 (U.S History through Reconstruction) revolution, limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of power, popular sovereignty, judicial review, unalienable rights, Expanded suffrage- 1830s, telegraph, Reconstruction, jury summons, responsible citizenship, civil disobedience

Lessons:

[Grade 7 \(Texas History\)](#)

[Grade 8 \(U.S History through Reconstruction\)](#)

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