

***Freedom Matters* exhibit**

George W. Bush Presidential Museum 2024-2025

Title: *Freedom Matters* exhibit, 2024-2025, George W. Bush Presidential Museum

Summary: *Freedom Matters* uses historical documents and personal perspectives to examine the concept of freedom – its origins, its meanings, what free societies look like, and the role of the individual in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 times when freedom has expanded and contracted for individuals and groups in the United States.

Rationale: The level of freedom changes based on political, economic and personal experiences.

Guiding question: How has freedom evolved from democracy’s early roots in Greece to today’s America for individuals and groups?

Recommended grade levels: 5, 6

Courses: Texas History, U.S. History Through Reconstruction

Time required: 1 hour

Featured documents:

- Grade 5 (U.S. History to 1877): The Magna Carta and Old English statutes, *The Federalist Papers*, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, *The Revolution* newspaper, works of Martin Luther King, Jr., the American with Disabilities Act, kiosk participation
- Grade 6 (Contemporary World): The Magna Carta and Old English statutes, the Declaration of Independence, *The Federalist Papers*, the U.S. Constitution, works of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, *The Revolution* newspaper, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 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:

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