

Freedom Matters exhibit

The 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Summary: *Freedom Matters* uses historical documents and personal perspectives to examine the concept of freedom – its origins, its meanings, what free societies look like, and the role of the individual in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: 7, 8

Courses: Texas History, U.S History Through Reconstruction

Time required: 1 hour

Featured documents:

- Grade 7 (Texas History): The Emancipation Proclamation, *The Revolution* newspaper, works of Martin Luther King, Jr., American with Disabilities Act, kiosk participation
- Grade 8 (U.S. History Through Reconstruction): Works by John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the Magna Carta and Old English statutes, the Declaration of Independence, *The Federalist Papers*, the U.S. Constitution, the Journal of the First Senate Session, kiosk participation

Vocabulary:

- Grade 7 (Texas History): *Women’s suffrage, the 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 powers, 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:

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