



Honoring the Spirit of America

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“Declaration of Independence”

Subject Area:

Social Studies, US History

Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:

Georgia History (8th grade)

US History (11th grade)

American Government/Civics (12th grade)

Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:

Vocabulary

Concept/ Topic to Teach:

Declaration of Independence

Georgia Standards Addressed:

SS8H3, SSUSH4, SSCG2

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

General Goal(s):

Study the Declaration of Independence

Specific Objectives:

1. Students will translate the Declaration of Independence into their own words
2. Understand the Declaration of Independence and importance to America's history

Required Materials:

A copy of the Declaration of Independence

Paper

Pens

Dictionary

The following websites:

http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/charters_of_freedom/declaration/declaration.html

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/>

<http://www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/>

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Ask students to write down what they know about the Declaration of Independence (DOI.)
2. Ask students to share what they wrote down and conduct a class discussion.
3. Read the history of the DOI to help students find out if what they wrote down was accurate.
4. Have students read the first two paragraphs aloud as a class.
5. Ask students to read the DOI and underline any difficult or unfamiliar words. Common words include: dissolve, station, entitle, impel, self-evident, endowed, inherent, inalienable, deriving, consent, and institute.
6. Discuss these words to see if they can define the word using context clues. For words students cannot define have the students research the meanings.
7. Have students rewrite the first paragraph and a half of the DOI.

Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:

Use of computer.

Extensions for Gifted Students:

Have students write a journal entry about what rights they think are more important and why.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects:

Language Arts

Additional Comments: _____