

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WITH THE FOUNDERS

Learning Objectives: Students will

1. Introduce the intent, meaning, and purpose of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights in their historical context.
2. Appreciate the relationship between the impact of these documents to the American Revolution, the formulation of the Constitution, the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, and the women's suffrage movement.

TEKS: Celebrate Freedom TEKS for grades 6-12

Materials Needed: Nine student desks lined up in rows of three each, name tags of nine Founding Fathers/Mothers, chalkboard or flipchart paper for Tic, Tac, Toe board, timer (optional)

Teaching Strategy:

1. Nine students will volunteer or be chosen as significant and influential Founding Fathers/Mothers of the United States. Give each volunteer one of the cards representing a founder. They will take their places in the nine student desks in the front of the room which have been set up in three rows of three desks each. To encourage students to accept these roles, explain they are not necessary expected to know the answers. They will just have to give a logical answer in a confident manner. It is up to the teams to decide if the answer is correct or not. Additionally, while the game is a competition, after the question is played, the teacher should use the opportunity to discuss the ideas in the question and answer to deepen the students' appreciation of the documents that form the basis of the United States and celebrate our freedom.

Cards: After the game is played, see if the students can identify the role that each played in the founding of the United States. Discussing these people before the game is played will give away several of the answers to the questions.

1. **Sam Adams—one of the founders of the Sons of Liberty in Boston. This group was one of the first to propose the idea that the colonies should be free from the British. He was also instrumental in planning the Boston Tea Party which was a protest against British taxing policies on tea without the consent of the colonists.**

2. **George Washington**—a Virginian planter, surveyor, and highest ranking American soldier in the British army who had gained valuable military experience in the French and Indian War. He was the commander of the American forces in the Revolution and became the first President of the United States after the Constitution was ratified.
 3. **Thomas Jefferson**—Virginian planter who is considered the primary author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States.
 4. **John Adams**—Lawyer from Massachusetts who advised Jefferson on the Declaration of Independence. He later served as ambassador to Great Britain after the Revolution before becoming Washington’s Vice-President and the 2nd President of the United States.
 5. **John Hancock**—Boston businessman who was a leader in the Sons of Liberty and the President of the Continental Congress. He was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.
 6. **Mercy Otis Warren**—Writer from Boston who supported the cause of the colonists. She was also a close friend of Abigail Adams. She was a leading Anti-Federalist in the debate over ratification of the Constitution because she feared the strong central government that it created.
 7. **Abigail Adams**—Wife of John Adams who reminded her husband to “remember the ladies” when he was involved in creation of the United States.
 8. **James Madison**—Virginian planter who is considered the “Father of the U.S. Constitution” and the principle author of the Bill of Rights. He later became the 4th President of the United States.
 9. **Alexander Hamilton**—A member of George Washington’s staff during the American Revolution from New York. He was later a key player in the writing of the U.S. Constitution. He authored many of the Federalist papers to round up support for its ratification before becoming Washington’s Secretary of the Treasury.
2. Divide the remaining students into two teams—“X” and “O.” Have both teams number off. Call on student #1 in the “X” group. That student should pick one of the Founding Fathers/Mothers. The teacher then asks the chosen founder a question from the list of questions provided. The Founding Father/Mother then answers the question. **Remind the Founding Fathers/Mothers they may give the correct answer or are allowed to bluff if they don’t know the answer. Which ever option they choose they just have to confidently state it.** Student #1 then agrees or disagrees with the answer

given by the Founder. Students may confer with other team members before answering, but they should be discouraged from actually looking up the answer. If the student is correct, an X is placed on the board in the corresponding spot. If the student misses the question, the O's get the square unless that would make that team win. In this case, the next student must answer a question to earn the win. The game continues with student #1 in the O group. It is played until one of the groups scores Tic, Tac, Toe (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally). The students on both the X and O sides should rotate through the entire team to answer the questions. **NOTE:** Rather than marking a Tic, Tac, Toe board, two different colors of construction paper can be used to designate the squares won by either the "X's" or the "O's."

3. The game may be repeated until class time is over or all questions are covered.

Note to teacher: In order to keep the game moving and be able to cover all the questions, it might be necessary to set a timer. When the timer goes off, the student must agree or disagree with the Founder. Additionally, the teacher can select questions from the bank in any order desired, rather than just going sequentially. However, note that some questions in the list do logically follow the previous question.

Level One Questions:

1. What was the document that was written to justify the American colonies action to break away from British rule titled? Answer: Declaration of Independence
2. How many reasons or grievances were given to justify breaking away from the British? Answer: 27
3. The committee that was charged with preparing the Declaration of Independence included John Jay, Roger Sherman, Ben Franklin, John Adams, and the primary author who was _____? Answer: Thomas Jefferson
4. The Declaration of Independence says that all people are born with unalienable rights. These rights include life, liberty, and what third right? Answer: The "pursuit of happiness"
5. Who does the Declaration of Independence say gives governments the right or authority to govern? Answer: The consent of the governed (the people)
6. What does the Declaration say is the purpose of government? Answer: To secure the unalienable rights for the people

7. At the time of the writing of the Declaration, what two groups of people were not included in the guarantees of these unalienable rights?
Answer: Women and slaves
8. What U.S. President is given credit for beginning the abolition of slavery in the U.S. when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation? Answer: Abraham Lincoln
9. Why did the Emancipation Proclamation not end slavery totally?
Answer: It only freed slaves in the Southern states that had seceded and were fighting in the Civil War. Therefore the Southern states didn't acknowledge it.
10. When did all slaves then get their freedom? Answer: After the Civil War
11. How the unalienable rights were finally guaranteed to male slaves?
Answer: The Constitution was amended by three amendments—the 13th which abolished slavery; the 14th which granted citizenship to those males previously enslaved; and the 15th which gave previous male slaves the right to vote.
12. When did women get the right to vote? Answer: 1920
13. How did women get the right to vote? Answer: The U.S. Constitution was amended by the adding of the 19th Amendment after efforts by the suffrage movement.
14. What event is said to have sparked the “Shot Heard Round the World?”
Answer: The shots fired between the colonists or Patriots and the Red Coats at Lexington and Concord
15. Who was the American named to be the commander of the colonial forces during the American Revolution? Answer: George Washington
16. How long after the “Shot Heard Round the World” was independence declared by the colonists? Answer: The Battles of Lexington and Concord which began the American Revolution occurred in April, 1775 and the Declaration was not voted on until July 4, 1776.
17. Why was it over a year before the colonies declared their independence? Answer: Not all colonists supported independence as they still considered themselves British citizens.
18. What was the first plan of government written to govern the United States after the victory over the British? Answer: The Articles of Confederation
19. What was the primary reason this plan of government failed? Answer: It did not create a strong enough central government.
20. When the Constitution was written, how many branches of government were created? Answer: Three—Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
21. How did the Founding Fathers attempt to keep any one branch from getting too much power over the other two? Answer: By dividing the powers between the three (Separation of Powers); dividing the powers between the states and the central governments (Federalism); or giving each branch checks over the other two (Checks and Balances)

22. What type of government did the new U.S. Constitution create? Answer: indirect democracy; representative democracy; republican form of government are all possible answers.
23. What was the major argument of the colonists against the British in the years before independence was declared? Answer: They were being taxed without representation.
24. Which branch of government is now charged with levying taxes on the citizens of the United States? Answer: The Legislative branch
25. What was a major argument against ratification of the U.S. Constitution by the Anti-Federalists? Answer: The central government was too strong OR it did not include a Bill of Rights.
26. What were the first ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution called? Answer: The Bill of Rights
27. What are any two of the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights? Answer: Freedom of religion, speech, press, petition, or assembly
28. Which Amendment was written to protect us from illegal searches which had occurred in the years before the American Revolution? Answer: The Fourth Amendment
29. Which Amendment was written to guarantee a trial by a jury in the place where the incident occurred rather than taken to England for trial as was planned after the Boston Tea Party? Answer: The Sixth Amendment
30. What are the first three words of the U.S. Constitution? Answer: We the People