

STATE AND FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RIGHTS

Goals

Students will be able to identify the freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights, in particular the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment and the protections extended to cover the laws passed by the states.

Students will be able to identify the influence of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Mason, and the various denominations of dissenters in the Colonial and early Federal Periods.

Objectives

Students will research the positions of framers on religious dissenters.

They will present their findings in a class after completing research over the course of one week.

Small groups will be assigned a specific framer or dissenter group, Fourteenth Amendment influence

Assignments will be done at one class period and presented one week later.

Students will be given access to the computer lab for research and will be given time in class to compile their work.

Virginia Sols: CE.2B, CE.3B, CE.10.D

Prerequisites

Students will read materials in their text on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

Students will also be given readings from Xeroxed copies of writings by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, etc. They will find websites on the dissenters and Fourteenth Amendment.

Materials

- Text: Civics and Economics, Holt, Rinehart and Winston
- Ancillary: We the People, The Citizen and the Constitution, Center for Civic Education
- <http://www.crf-usa.org>, site of the Constitutional Rights Foundation
- Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
- Landmark Declarations of Religious Freedom
- George Washington's responses to the various groups of dissenters
- Fourteenth Amendment court cases
- Whatever readings students can find on the web
- Construction paper, markers, magazines, poster board, scissors, glue

Lesson Description

This lesson will take at least four class periods of 45-90 minutes.

Students will produce a manipulative in the form of a three-sided tower, a six-sided square or some other shape that will display the materials.

Day One (45-minute class): The topic will be introduced. A rubric (refer to next page) will be given to each student describing the requirements to complete the tasks and the points to be earned. Class will be divided into 4-6 groups depending on class size.

Day Two (87-minute class): Computer-lab day for research and group work.

Day Three (87 minute class): 20 minutes will be for group planning and then the rest of the class period for completion of the project. They will use a combination of words and art to indicate their understanding of the topic.

Day Four (45 minute class): Each group will display and explain their project

Evaluation

Rubric form (refer to next page) and group presentation will be used for assessment.

Name _____

Class _____

Rubric: Religious Freedom Manipulative

You will take the information from previous work to produce a visual representation of your understanding of religious freedom and how it became part of the fabric of American rights. Your work will be completed over the course of the next three classes in collaboration with members of a group you will be assigned to during the first class.

Points will be awarded on the basis of the information included on your manipulative. You can create a six-sided box, a three- or four-sided tower or any other form of visual display that will communicate what you know about religious freedom in America. 200 points will be possible.

You can produce your visual with pictures cut from magazines, newspapers, written words, drawings, excerpts of the documents. Materials will be available in the classroom to complete the project. Computer time will be scheduled in a lab to do additional research.

Your project should include:

Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom	10 pts _____
Virginia Declaration of Rights	10 pts _____
First Amendment	10 pts _____
Fourteenth Amendment	10 pts _____
Other Documents/Court Cases	10 pts _____
Thomas Jefferson	10 pts _____
George Mason	10 pts _____
James Madison	10 pts _____
George Washington	10 pts _____
Dissenters	10 pts _____
Group Presentation	50 pts _____
TOTAL	_____

Please award points to members of your group based on the work they did to help complete the project. List them on the next page (Award up to 50 points.).