



Idaho Department
of Education

America 250: Spirit of US



September

Founding Principles of Democracy

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Explain the Bill of Rights
- ☐ Define rights and responsibilities
- ☐ Display my own opinions on rights and responsibilities in art, writing, or multi-media



Essential Question

What is a right and responsibility?





Jigsaw

In small groups,

- Read your assigned amendment
- Identify the main idea/rights
- Provide a real-world example of that right being used.



Turn and Talk

1. What is one **right** you have in the classroom/at school/in society?
2. What **responsibility** do you think goes with that right?
3. Why is it important for everyone to respect each other's **rights**?



Your Turn:



Write: A short paragraph or story about a **right** you are thankful for and how you show your **responsibility** as a citizen. For example, you might write about learning in school and how you help your communities.



Create: A drawing or poster that shows you using one of your rights **and** doing your part to be a good citizen. You can include symbols like the flag, your school, your family, or people working together.



October

Patriotism

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Define patriotism
- ☐ Analyze a painting
- ☐ Discuss new ideas
- ☐ Display my own opinions on patriotism in art, writing, or multi-media



Essential Question

What is patriotism?





Notice + Wonder



Turn and Talk

1. Why do you think Betsy Ross wanted to help make a flag for our country? How do you show love for your country today?
2. What do you see in the painting that shows people working together for America? How does working together help our country?



Your Turn:



Write: A short paragraph or story about a time **you showed patriotism**—maybe you helped a neighbor, celebrated a national holiday, or learned about our flag or history. Tell how your actions showed love for your country.



Create: A drawing or poster that shows **what patriotism looks like** to you. You can include symbols like the flag, people helping others, or something special about your community or country.



November

National Symbols and Documents

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Identify national symbols and monuments
- ☐ Analyze the Seal of the United States
- ☐ Display my own opinions on symbols of the United States in art, writing, or multi-media



Essential Question

What images do you think of when you think of the United States?



Explore

Explore Symbols of the United States

What are some commonalities you see in the symbols?






Notice + Wonder


The Great Seal of
The United States





What do they each mean?


 The Bald Eagle: The bald eagle is our national bird. It stands for freedom and strength.


 The Shield (on the eagle's chest) The shield has red, white, and blue stripes. Red means courage, White means honesty, Blue means fairness and justice.

 The Olive Branch (in the eagle's right talon) This branch stands for peace. It has 13 leaves and 13 olives for the 13 original colonies.

 The Arrows (in the eagle's left talon) The arrows stand for being ready to protect the country if needed. There are also 13 arrows—one for each of the first colonies.

 The Eagle Looks Toward the Olive Branch. This shows the United States wants peace first but will defend itself if necessary.

 The Stars Above the Eagle's Head, there are 13 stars in a bright cloud, showing that the 13 colonies joined together as one new country.

 E Pluribus Unum (a ribbon in the eagle's beak) These Latin words mean "Out of many, one." It reminds us that many people and states come together to make one country—the United States of America.

Turn and Talk

1. Why do you think the eagle is holding both an olive branch and arrows? What does that tell us about what our country cares about?
2. The ribbon says “E Pluribus Unum,” which means “Out of many, one.” What do you think that means, and how do we see that in our country today?



Your Turn:

🌟 **Write:** A short paragraph or story about **what makes you proud to be part of the United States**. You can include how you help your community, show kindness, or work with others like the stars on the seal.

🎨 **Create:** A picture of your own **"Great Seal"** that shows symbols of what you think is important about America. You can use animals, colors, objects, or even people to represent your ideas!



January

Equality

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Define equality
- ☐ Compare two pieces of writing –
The Declaration of
Independence and The
Gettysburg Address
- ☐ Display my own opinions on
liberty in art, writing, or multi-
media



Essential Question

What does equality mean in America?





Compare + Contrast



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



Compare + Contrast



—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Class Discussion

“They contribute to the strength and wealth of the whole province; and the loss of one industrious man is sensibly felt throughout the country.”

— *Benjamin Franklin*

Read the quote above. What does Benjamin Franklin mean?

1. How does this quote reflect the idea of equality ?
2. Why is **equality** important to American culture and life?



Your Turn:

What does equality mean to you?

- ✓ Use art, writing, or multimedia to create your most powerful representation of equality and submit it to the competition.



February

Liberty

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Define liberty
- ☐ Analyze the inscribed quote on the Statue of Liberty
- ☐ Display my own opinions on liberty in art, writing, or multi-media



Essential Question

What does liberty mean in America?





Notice + Wonder

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming
shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-
tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden
door!"

-Emma Lazarus



What is Liberty?

Watch: [What Is Liberty? | Civics Explainers | PBS LearningMedia](#)

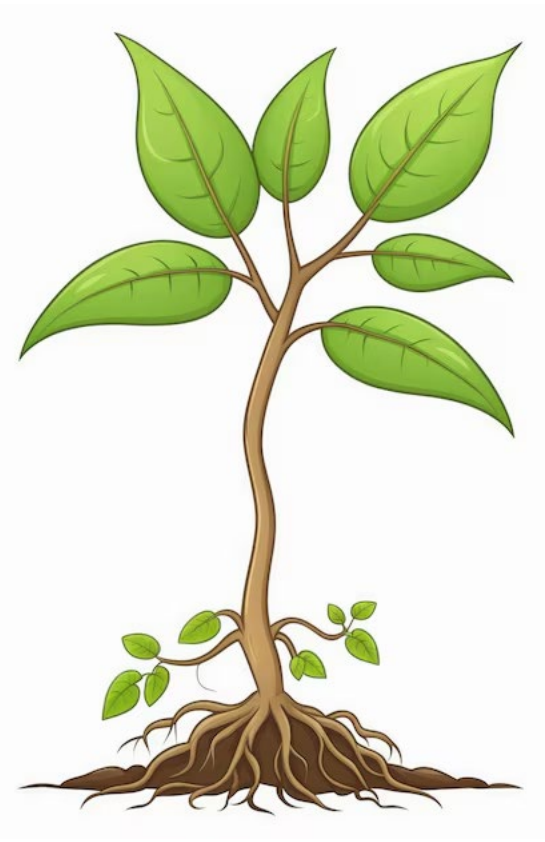
Write: What does **liberty** mean to you?



Class Discussion

“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.”-- George Washington

1. Read the quote above. What does George Washington mean?
2. How does this quote relate to the inscription and video?
3. Why is **liberty** important to American culture and life?



Your Turn:

What does liberty mean to you?

- ✓ Use art, writing, or multimedia to create your most powerful representation of liberty and submit it to the competition.



March Opportunity

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Define opportunity
- ☐ Analyze the preamble to the Declaration of Independence
- ☐ Display my own opinions on opportunity in the United States in art, writing, or multi-media



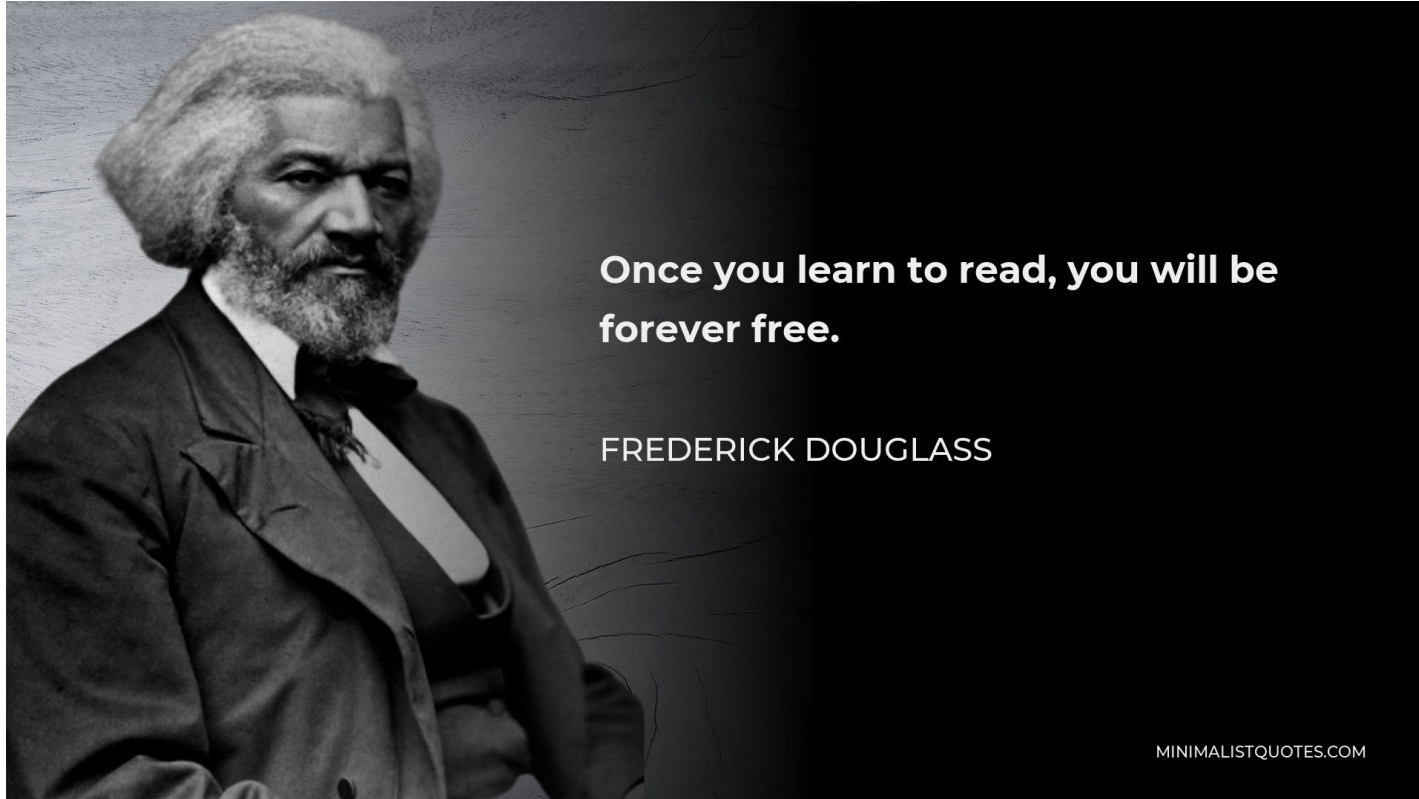
Essential Question

What does
opportunity mean?





Notice + Wonder



Turn and Talk

1. How does learning give you freedom and opportunity?
2. How does going to school give you opportunity?



Your Turn:



Write: A short paragraph or story about an **opportunity** you have right now. It could be something you're learning in school, a goal you're working toward, or a chance you had to try something new.

What is your opportunity?

Why is it important to you?

How will it help you in the future?



Create: A drawing or poster that shows you **using your opportunity** to learn, grow, or help others. You can include books, classrooms, friends, sports, music, or anything that shows you chasing a dream!



April

Civic Duty

Learning Targets

I can:

- ☐ Define civic duty
- ☐ Watch a video about civic duties
- ☐ Display my own opinions on civic duty in the United States in art, writing, or multi-media



Essential Question

What does civic duty mean?





Notice + Wonder

Watch this video: [Civic Duties | Social Studies Shorts | PBS LearningMedia](#)

And this one: [Citizen Nation: Citizenship Responsibilities | PBS LearningMedia](#)

Turn and Talk

1. What are some ways you can help your communities or classmates?
2. Why is voting an important civic duty?



Your Turn:



Write: A short paragraph or story about a time **you did your civic duty**. What did you do to help others or your community?

How did it make a difference?

Why is it important to do your part?



Create: A drawing or poster that shows you or someone else **doing their civic duty**. This could be helping a neighbor, cleaning a park, being a good friend, or someday—voting or serving the community.

