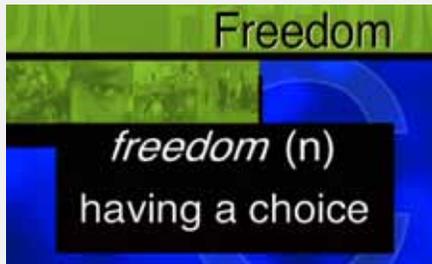


Character and Life Skills: Freedom

Lesson Title: Complete Freedom

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students discuss the advantages of having certain freedoms, predict the changes that would occur if they were offered complete freedom, and compose an essay describing life with complete freedom.

Essential Question

How does freedom affect our daily lives?

Materials

- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers
- Paper, construction paper, card stock, poster board
- Smart board, white board or chart paper

Procedure

Introduction

1. Introduce this lesson by having students pair with a peer and share their definitions of "freedom."
2. Call on a few pairs to share their partners' ideas aloud and record their ideas on the board for reference throughout the lesson.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Share your personal, historical list of freedoms and restrictions with your students. Allow time for them to comment on your list, ask you questions and share their freedoms and restrictions.
2. Explain to your students that sometimes we want freedoms that we may not be mature enough or ready to handle. Provide a personal example of a freedom you desired but was withheld from you because of your age.
3. Continue to explain that sometimes freedoms are not allowed for other reasons (ex. rules or laws, parents, beliefs, customs, etc). Discuss a few of these freedoms and restrictions with your students.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Share with your students that having freedom can be a positive experience but that sometimes too much freedom may cause problems. Ask students what it means to have “too much freedom.” What are some examples of the problems that may arise from having too much freedom?
2. Inform students that they will complete a creative writing assignment. As part of the assignment, students will describe freedoms they currently enjoy and explain the reasons why they appreciate their freedoms. Allow time for your students to brainstorm examples they might discuss in their writing assignment. Record their examples on the board or a piece of chart paper.
3. Challenge your students to be very imaginative with the next portion of their assignment, which requires them to write about a world in which they enjoy complete freedom. Students need to describe the freedoms they could experience in this fictional world and then explain how aspects of their lives would be different if they enjoyed complete freedom. Encourage your students to be as outrageous and innovative as they want to be with this portion of the assignment.
 - Example: I enjoy complete freedom, so I eat chocolate all of the time. I eat a chocolate bar for breakfast and wash it down with chocolate milk. Then, I eat chocolate-covered raisins for a snack. For lunch, I have a chocolate-covered hamburger and French fries dipped in chocolate. For dessert, I enjoy a chocolate chip cookie, washing it all down with — you guessed it — chocolate milk. For dinner, I devour a chocolate pizza with milk chocolate chips on top. This is followed by chocolate ice cream for dessert. Life is great having the freedom to eat anything I want, except... my stomach is starting to hurt a little. It keeps making these churning and rumbling sounds. And my dentist is complaining that I’m getting more cavities — and I did lose a tooth yesterday! My dentist says it’s because of all the chocolate I keep eating. He says if I keep up my chocolate diet, then my teeth will all fall out! Then I’d be known as Toothless. How can I eat chocolate without my teeth?

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Allow time for students to brainstorm their ideas and then write rough drafts of their stories.
2. As students finish, divide them into pairs and have students edit their partners’ rough drafts. Then instruct students to make their revisions before completing the final versions of their stories.
3. At the end of class, have a few volunteers share their stories with the class.

Conclusion

Ask students to define the word “freedom” again. Lead a quick discussion using the following questions:

- What are some examples of freedoms and restrictions that we might experience in life?
- Does everyone have the same freedoms? Why or why not?
- How can freedom cause problems?
- How is freedom positive?
- Why does freedom come with rules, expectations, and restrictions?

