
Lesson Excerpt: American Heritage Themes

Focus

Students are to develop the meaning of the four themes of American Heritage. Write the words freedom, unity, progress, and responsibility on the board. Ask students what they think each of the words means, and write their responses near the word. Read one of the quotes about each one of the themes and ask students how the quote relates to the definition the students have provided.

Activity

Teachers may select one or more of these activities for their students.

1. Have groups of students list the jobs of four family members and describe how each of the jobs impacts one of the four themes.
2. Ask each student to create a poster to illustrate one of the four themes. Group all of the posters of the same theme and have the students who created the posters unify their ideas to create a single poster. Display the posters around the school and area businesses.
3. Ask students to write a poem, "What is an American?" The poem format: Line 1--one of the four themes Line 2--2 adjectives Line 3--3 action verbs Line 4--a sentence about the theme Line 5--a synonym for the theme

Closure

Remind students that freedom, unity, progress, and responsibility are themes from American history that are still important to Americans today.

Resource: *America's Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty*

Elementary School

Download the Free Lesson

[Elementary School Lesson*](#)

*To download the entire American Heritage Themes lesson plan, you must sign up for a free membership with American Heritage Education Foundation.

Activity Location

America's Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty (ES-HS), American Heritage Themes Unit, pp. 21-27. Elementary School version.

Other Resources

[American Heritage Education Foundation Bookstore](#)

[The Founding](#)

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