
Lesson Excerpt: American Heritage Themes

Focus

Write the word “freedom” on the board. Ask students what they think freedom means. Write student responses on the board. Repeat this activity for the words unity, progress, and responsibility. Tell students that these four words are important themes that appear in quotes of famous Americans throughout history.

Activity

Have students work individually or in groups use copies of the template (see next page), art paper, magazine and newspaper cutouts, and/or poster boards to illustrate the meaning of one or more of the themes. Students may use drawings, words, sentences, paragraphs, pictures, or quotations from the handout or other sources to illustrate their themes. Students should consider the meaning of the themes for Americans today. Students may then group posters on the same theme and unify their ideas to create a single poster. Display posters around the class, school, and area businesses.

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*

Middle School

Download the Free Lesson

[Middle 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. Middle School version.

Other Resources

[American Heritage Education
Foundation Bookstore](#)

[The Founding](#)

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FREEDOM

UNITY

PROGRESS

RESPONSIBILITY