



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

COMPARE AND CONTRAST LIFE IN AMERICA

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Activity Description

Students will read a variety of accounts of life during early American times. The more primary sources available the better. Compare events documented in primary sources with information in secondary sources to determine what gives a more accurate picture and why. Using the information gleaned from primary and secondary sources, the students will compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of early Americans with American citizens today. Students need to be specific.

It will be teacher discretion as to whether the early American period is before or after the creation of the Constitution. I find it beneficial to use early America under the Article of Confederation as it helps students learn why the Constitution was so important.

Suggested Grade Level

Middle school through high school

Estimated Time to Complete

30–45 minutes a day for roughly a week (this includes analyzing primary sources)

Objectives

Students will

- analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic;
- cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources;
- determine the central ideas of information of a primary or secondary source;
- provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions;
- compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another;
- compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics;
- analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts;
- analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic, | and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation;
- evaluate the rights of citizens;
- analyze the responsibilities of citizens.

Materials Needed

1. *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* textbooks
2. Variety of primary sources from early America (teacher choice)
3. Variety of secondary sources about early America (teacher choice)