



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

A DESERT ISLAND

By Kris Rengel

Activity Description

Students will create a plan of action to design a government to address issues of a newly developed population.

Using Unit One of *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*, students should be able to address John Locke's ideas of a state of nature. They should also be able to identify how this activity was similar to what the framers of the constitution faced.

Suggested Grade Level

Middle to high school

Estimated Time to Complete

Forty-five minutes to one hour

Objectives

Students will

- analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas of events);
- analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text;
- learn how power and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited in the government established by the U.S. Constitution;
- demonstrate their understanding of ideas and historical events presented in *We the People*.

Materials Needed

1. *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* student edition
2. A Desert Island worksheet (two pages, follows)
3. Chart paper
4. Markers

A Desert Island

Group Members: _____

You and your colleagues are on a cruise ship with approximately 300 passengers. A violent storm has thrown the ship off course and you are shipwrecked on an island. Most passengers have survived. There is no expectation of rescue. Although the island is uninhabited, it has plenty of resources to build and support a community.

You and your group have been selected to create a plan of action.

Your task is two-fold:

1. Create a simple plan of action to deal with immediate problems like health issues, food, etc.

2. Create a government that will facilitate the survival of the population in the future.



A Desert Island

Now that you've created your plan and system, discuss and answer the following questions.

1. Why did your group create the system it did?
2. What are the costs and benefits of your plan?
3. What are the possible problems of your plan?
4. Where did you get your ideas?
5. How does the system you created compare to the one we live under today?

