



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## KING GEORGE AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

By Jennifer Juskowiak

### Activity Description

Students will learn about King George through a variety of sources (*We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution* textbook as well as *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George* by Jean Fritz). After students discover the causes for creating the Declaration of Independence, the teacher will read aloud *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss. Students will compare and contrast King Yertle and King George.

Students will then read and discuss the Declaration of Independence (provided in *We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution*) before writing one for the turtles in the story. The turtles' Declaration of Independence should address the three main ideas the founders included in ours: (1) basic ideas about people and government ; (2) reasons why they had the right to be free; and (3) complaints against the king.

### Suggested Grade Level

Middle to high school

### Estimated Time to Complete

Completed throughout the week (20–30 minutes daily until finished)

### Objectives

Students will

- describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions.);
- compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact);
- describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described;
- analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision;
- identify where people in government get the authority to make, apply, and enforce rules and laws and manage disputes about them;
- identify the differences between limited and unlimited governments;
- analyze the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government;
- determine why it is important to limit the power of government.

### Materials Needed

- *We the People: The Citizen & The Constitution* textbook
- *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?* by Jean Fritz (or other documentation of King George's rule over the colonies)
- *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss