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Comparing the Founding Documents: Grade 7 Lesson Plan

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Lesson Plans

Comparing the Founding Documents

Author: Joy Bishop

Grade(s): 7

Suggested Time: 2, 40 minute classes

Materials

Magna Carta

Declaration of Independence

Bill of Rights

1802 Ohio Constitution

Core Instruction

Prior to beginning the lesson discuss the concept of feudalism, King John and the signing of the Magna Carta

Divide students in groups of 2-3 and distribute copies of the Bill of Rights

Students will list what they believe are the three most important rights

Distribute copies of the Magna Carta (in its entirety or portions) and ask students if the rights they chose appear in the Magna Carta. Create a T-chart together with the class

Complete the same activity with the Ohio constitution

Distribute copies of the Declaration of Independence and ask students to highlight the list of grievances

Distribute the list of grievances from the Magna Carta and compare

Lead the entire class in the creation of a matrix that includes: social classes in feudal England and how they were affected by the Magna Carta; social classes in early America and how each was affected by the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights; social classes in early Ohio and how they were affected by the passage of the Ohio Constitution. *This activity will require a great deal of input from the teacher

Assessment

Students will write a one-page paper answering the question: Would it have been wise to include more rights in the Magna Carta for lower classes? Why or why not?

Standards

Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities 6-8, Benchmark B: Identify historical origins that influenced the rights United States citizens have today.

- *Indicator:* Grade 7, GLI 2. Describe the rights found in the Magna Carta and show connections to rights Americans have today
- *Indicator:* Grade X, GLI X. Content goes here
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