

Topic:

Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?

Time:

Two 45-minute sessions

Grade:

2-6

Core:

5: 6050-0601

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the importance of the Declaration of Independence and why it was needed.
2. Students will know who John Hancock was and what his contributions to the Declaration of Independence were.

Procedure:

1. Read the story orally to the students and have them think about how John Hancock was a defender of liberty.
2. Ask the students why the signing of the Declaration of Independence was so important to the American colonies?
3. Refer to other important documents. Ask students:
 - a. How is the signing of documents important?
 - b. Do you feel more obligated when you sign?
 - c. Should you feel more obligated when you sign? Why or why not? For example: class rules, constitutional amendments, club, or job?
4. Discuss how it was decided who would be members of the Continental Congress. Talk about the purpose of the Continental Congress. Identify the process used to develop the Declaration of Independence.
5. If the Declaration of Independence hadn't been developed, what would have probably happened? How would John Hancock's life have been different? If King George had liked John Hancock, do you think history would have been different? If so, how?
6. If you were John Hancock and the Declaration of Independence hadn't been signed, what would you have done? Is there anything about John Hancock's life or character you would have changed? If so, what? Why?

Additional Resources:**Author:**

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