

We the People are Looking for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

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Third graders want to know that there are rules that they must follow. They are concerned that these rules be fair, but what does fair mean? They are aware that there are awards and consequences in place to insure that the rules are followed. What happens when they disagree with a rule? We will uncover what the students think about freedom and determine the reason rules are put in place.

At first glance, the idea of liberty seems like an easy concept to define, yet as you begin a conversation one quickly realizes that liberty means different things to different people. Using vocabulary and non-fiction reading skills, students will research and interpret the Declaration of Independence and what role liberty played in this document. We will then repeat the process as we look at the US Constitution, thus setting the stage for using the Constitution to explore the role of the president.