

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 5 to 12

Freedom & Repression in Colonial America

America's Quest for Freedom Series

Subject Area: United States History, Social Studies

Synopsis: Contrasts early American colonists' hopes for religious freedom and opportunities in the New World with the introduction of slavery, Puritan attempts to establish a theocracy, and the Native American struggle to keep their traditional lands and ways of life.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the varied reasons early European colonists came to the New World and describe the colonies at Plymouth and Jamestown, the hardships faced by the colonists, and how they were helped by Native Americans.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to identify the freedoms available to European colonists in America that were not available to them in Europe.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to explain how Native Americans were negatively affected by the arrival of European colonists, and describe the struggles between the two groups for land rights.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to contrast the freedoms offered to colonists through the establishment of the House of Burgesses with the arrival of the first African slaves in 1619.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to explain how Puritans, after achieving religious freedom, began to persecute others, as evidenced in the Salem Witch Trials.

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

- 1) Ask students to describe the first Thanksgiving. Have students share their impressions of the earliest colonists' relations with Native Americans.
- 2) Vocabulary: Pilgrims, freedom to worship, treaties, retaliate, tobacco, House of Burgesses, men of property, colonists, Puritans, persecution, self-reliance, individualism, separation of church and state, tolerance, trance, witchcraft

Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) With a world map, trace the journeys taken by the first settlers. Show the Pilgrims' journey from the Netherlands to New England, the Jamestown colonists' journey from England to Jamestown, and African slaves' journey from Africa to Virginia. Also identify the Native American tribes located in each region.
- 2) Compare and contrast the reasons the Pilgrims, the Jamestown colonists, the Puritans and the African slaves came to America. How were their lives in America different from in their countries of origin? What opportunities did they have in the New World? What struggles did they face?

- 3) In what specific ways did the European colonists gain freedom by moving to America?
- 4) Describe the Pilgrims' early experience in Plymouth. How did they survive the winter? What was the nature of their relationship with the local Native American tribes?
- 5) Describe the Jamestown colonists' early experience in Jamestown. How did they survive? What was the nature of their relationship with the local Native Americans?
- 6) Who was Squanto? Who was Pocahontas? Why did these individuals help the colonists? How might history have been different if they had not offered help to the struggling colonists?
- 7) Name three important events of 1619.
- 8) Describe the Puritan civilization. What was the relationship between religion and government? Why was Minister Roger Williams driven away from Puritan society? Where did he go? What are the benefits of the separation of church and state?
- 9) How did the Salem Witch Trials start? When did they end and why? Under what circumstances were accused witches executed? Could the Salem Witch Trials occur today? Why or why not?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Assign students to write journal entries as a colonist of Plymouth or Jamestown or as a Native American. Encourage students to write about their feelings towards their new neighbors, the struggles of life during that period, etc.
- 2) Discuss the Salem Witch Trials in greater detail, reviewing the reasons many were accused of witchcraft, how they were accused, and the process of the trials. Divide the class into two groups to write plays about the Salem Witch Trials. Ask one group to write a play in which the accused witch pleads guilty, and the other group to write a play in which the accused pleads not guilty. After allowing students adequate time to prepare, have them perform their plays for the class.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

- Colonial Life Series
- African American History Series
- The Constitution Series
- Native Americans Before Columbus Series
- Lewis & Clark: Tools of Discovery
- Without Due Process: Japanese Americans & World War II

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