

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 5 to 12

Free at Last? WWII and After

America's Quest for Freedom Series

Subject Area: US History, Social Studies

Synopsis: Chronicles the expansion of freedom in the United States during the last half of the 20th century with archival footage of the events from World War II through the 1960's. Includes discussion of American involvement in WWII, the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in internment camps during WWII, the Cold War, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam War.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the four freedoms for which Americans fought in World War II: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to recall details of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe the tensions of the Cold War and American responses to the threat of communism in the world and in the United States.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to discuss the Civil Rights Movement, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act as landmarks in the fight for basic freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to describe the tensions in America over the Vietnam War.
- Objective 6)** Students will be able to explain how America's concept of freedom has expanded throughout history.

Pre-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) Ask each student to write a definition of freedom. In a class discussion, explore students' views of freedom.
- 2) Vocabulary: liberty, pluralism, newsreels, internment camps, amphibious assault, extermination camps, A-bomb, vanquished, communism, hostilities, affluence, oppression, McCarthyism, heresy, radicalism, boycott, optimism, rebellion, assassinated, revitalize, prevailed, resilient, heritage, birthright

Post-Viewing Discussion and Activities:

- 1) What are the four freedoms for which Americans fought in World War II? Were these freedoms present in Europe at that time? Were these freedoms present in the United States at that time?
- 2) Contrast personal freedoms in the United States with personal freedoms in Nazi Germany. What is the value of a pluralistic society?

- 3) Why were Japanese Americans placed in internment camps during World War II? Do you think these people were a threat to the United States? Could a similar movement happen today?
- 4) What was America's mission in the Cold War? Why was Communism a threat to the United States? How did the U.S. government respond to domestic Communist movements?
- 5) Explain the events that led to the Montgomery bus boycott.
- 6) Describe Martin Luther King Jr.'s strategy in the Civil Rights Movement. Why do you think this strategy was effective? How has the Civil Rights Movement influenced the way others claim their rights and freedoms? How did the Civil Rights Movement transform the meaning of freedom?
- 7) What tensions were present in the United States during the Vietnam War? Do you think the nation's disunity affected the outcome of the War?
- 8) How has the American concept of freedom expanded since the Revolutionary War? In what ways do you expect our concept of freedom to expand or change in the future?

Additional Activities:

- 1) List the freedoms and oppressions covered in this program and categorize each in terms of the four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.
- 2) Divide students into groups of four or five and ask them to identify a group of people that does not currently share equal rights. Each group should discuss the reasons for this oppression and how these people can achieve equal rights. Bring the class together to discuss the findings of each group. Also encourage the class to think about how they can become involved in advocating for the rights of others.

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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