

# WHAT IS FREEDOM?

## CITIZENSHIP

**Curriculum Connections:** Social studies, language arts, technology, art, math

**Focus:** Character development, critical thinking

**Overview:** Freedom means many things to many people. Freedom can mean being able to make choices. When we make choices, we must also consider how other people feel, what other people need, and other people's freedom (these are called *consequences*).

**Objective:** Students will examine what freedom means to them and to others.

**Materials:** Sign or banner that says "Our Freedom Quilt"; copy of book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, by Deborah Hopkinson (Random House, 1995)

**Vocabulary:** freedom, choice, respect

### Activity 1



Read the story *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, by Deborah Hopkinson.

Have students interpret what freedom means in this story.

Communicate who had freedom when the story began. Help students recognize who had freedom when the story ended. Have students examine the part quilts played in helping the characters obtain their freedom. Have the class defend whether or not they think this story is true.

You can access additional activities to accompany the reading of the story at [http://www.powershow.com/view1/23dea0-NjQ2M/Sweet\\_Clara\\_and\\_the\\_Freedom\\_Quilt\\_by\\_Deborah\\_Hopkinson\\_Cyberlesson\\_Barbara\\_Palmer\\_powerpoint\\_ppt\\_presentation](http://www.powershow.com/view1/23dea0-NjQ2M/Sweet_Clara_and_the_Freedom_Quilt_by_Deborah_Hopkinson_Cyberlesson_Barbara_Palmer_powerpoint_ppt_presentation).

### Activity 2

Have students brainstorm the meaning of the following slogan: *Be the best you can be*. Responses may include: being healthy, having good friends, and helping others.

Help students understand that in the United States we have the freedom to have all of these things and that they have the freedom to be whatever they want to be.

Further discuss what freedom means to them and how they can help others to be free. Have a class discussion of some good choices they have made or want to make. Be sure to include some of the thoughts from the "Overview" above.

### Activity 3

Have each student create a picture of themselves illustrating a freedom that they enjoy. When everyone has finished, they will help construct a class "freedom quilt" that will be displayed in your classroom as a reminder that freedom can mean many different things.

Have students share their "quilt piece" by interpreting their drawing and how they felt about creating a piece of the quilt. Assemble the quilt pieces with staples, ribbon, yarn, or string and hang in the room under the sign or banner "Our Freedom Quilt."

Conclude by saying: *Just as each of us makes up a classroom, and all the classrooms make up a school, we have drawn our own ideas of freedom and put them all together to make our freedom quilt. We must all work together to make sure that everyone has freedom.*



## **Car Survey**

1. Conclude why everyone doesn't drive the same color of car.
2. Which color was the most common?
3. Which color of car did you see the least?
4. Create a list of colors you did not see.
5. Predict the color of car you will have when you grow up.