We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed. . .
Defending Liberty and Freedom

Veterans Day
Honoring All Who Served

11.11.11
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Introduction

This curriculum guide for Celebrate Freedom Week has been prepared in compliance with O.S 70. 2001, Section 25-152, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 83, O.S.L. Supp. 2007. This guide will provide information on the requirements of the law, dates for observing Celebrate Freedom Week, various resources for instructional use, and resources for conducting a Veterans Day Assembly.

In order to educate Oklahoma students about the sacrifices made for freedom on behalf of the country and the values on which this country was founded, November 11 has been designated “Veterans Day,” and the week in which November 11 falls has been designated “Celebrate Freedom Week” for the public schools of Oklahoma.

As part of a social studies class, during Celebrate Freedom Week or during another full school week as determined by the local board of education, appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts shall occur.

The study of the Declaration of Independence is to include the study and the relationship of ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants; the American Revolution; the formulation of the United States Constitution; the Abolitionist Movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation; and the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

Students in Grades 3-12 shall study and recite the following from the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The board of education of each public school district shall ensure that each school in its district will on Veterans Day conduct and observe an appropriate Veterans Day Assembly program of at least one class period that remembers and honors American veterans. In addition, schools may choose to have a one-minute moment of silence beginning at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 or the next appropriate school day.
Students may be excused from the recitation of the text, if:
1. The parent or guardian of the student submits to the school district a written request that the student be excused;
2. The student has a conscientious objection to the recitation as determined by the school district; or
3. The student is a child of a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity.

The following information and resources is not an exhaustive listing, but educators may find many lessons, activities, literature, and other resources for planning and conducting Celebrate Freedom Week successfully.
Priority Academic Student Skills

The Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) for the Social Studies may be accessed using the following link, http://sde.state.ok.us/Curriculum/PASS/.

The Oklahoma State PASS Standards for U.S. History and Government address the rigor of content knowledge and critical thinking to which students at each grade level and/or course can be expected to engage and master. Each of the learning objectives in PASS designate levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy, indicating depth of knowledge and strength of rigor. In addition, each grade level and course of study in the Social Studies PASS document identifies precise content knowledge which all students must demonstrate. For example, examine one PASS standard for students in eighth grade United States History (8.5.5):

Identify and give examples of the rights, responsibilities, liberties, and protections all individuals possess under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, including the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights to due process and trial by jury.

This objective requires critical thinking and analysis to “interpret” and “give examples” of rights and responsibilities under our Constitution and Bill of Rights. According to Bloom’s Taxonomy, to interpret requires a level of rigor challenging students to actively engage in the study of the documents by applying and extending concepts in new situations. This same PASS objective also indicates the content to be mastered by listing specific liberties, such as due process and freedom of speech. In an eighth grade classroom, a lesson on free speech might involve a case study of a flag-burning incident and debate over a proposed anti-flag desecration amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The design of the Social Studies PASS document fully implements the intent of the Celebrate Freedom Week legislation in regards to grade-appropriate content and rigor. Indications of the levels of rigor can be found on the Celebrate Freedom Week Correlation Chart on page 21 of this resource guide.
Internet Resources

While the Oklahoma State Department of Education does not endorse any particular program or Web site, the informational resources provided below may be useful in developing programs for Celebrate Freedom Week.

American Bar Association (ABA)
The American Bar Association has a Division for Public Education whose mission is “to promote public understanding of law and its role in society.” This Web site has a number of interactive resources that relate to the U.S. Constitution and other founding documents.  
http://www.abanet.org/publiced

American Heritage Educational Foundation (AHEF)
AHEF is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational foundation. AHEF accomplishes this patriotic mission by writing, producing, and distributing FREE K-12 lesson plans to teachers, students, and families in all 50 states and through additional initiatives, programs, and partnerships.  
http://www.americanheritage.org/

Bill of Rights Institute
The Bill of Rights Institute provides information about liberties guaranteed in the Founding documents, the ideas and words of the Founders and how the Founding Principles shape a free society.  
http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org

Boston National Historic Park (Massachusetts)
The Boston National Historic Park Web site takes the viewer to Web sites of various other sites around Boston that were significant in the Colonial period and the American Revolution.  
http://www.nps.gov/bost

C-SPAN in the Classroom
This Web site contains content specific lessons on the meaning of the Constitution and contemporary society, including principles of government, the U.S. Constitution, the legislative branch, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and political participation.  
www.c-spanclassroom.org

Center for Civic Education
The Center for Civic Education promotes development of responsible participation in civic education. Programs focus on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Web site includes curriculum and community-based programs.  
http://www.civiced.org
The Charters of Freedom Online Exhibit
This Web site hosts an online exhibit on the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.  
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/

A Chronology of US Historical Documents
The University of Oklahoma College of Law has compiled the text of numerous key documents in American History at A Chronology of U.S. Historical Documents. www.law.ou.edu/hist/

The Constitution for Kids
The U.S. Constitution for Grades K-3 with a basic fact sheet with a link for pictures of the U.S. Constitution.  
http://www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html
For Grades 4-7 click on the following hyperlink: 
http://www.usconstitution.net/constkids4.html
For Grades 8-12: http://www.usconstitution.net/constkids.html
Home page: http://www.usconstitution.net/index.html

Constitutional Facts.com
This Web site contains background information on the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Articles of Confederation. The site includes an online quiz, famous quotes, and a treasure hunt. 
http://www.constitutionfacts.com/

Constitutional Rights Foundation
The Constitutional Rights Foundation provides programs and materials for teachers, students and citizens to learn about the importance of active participation in a democratic society.  
http://www.crf-usa.org/information.html

Constitutional Rights Foundation - Chicago
The Constitutional Rights Foundation - Chicago has designed and implemented a number of elementary and secondary law-related education programs. The site has a number of lessons in English, French and Spanish.  
http://www.crfc.org

Declaration of Independence
The Declaration of Independence link includes the text of the Declaration of Independence and another link to a photograph of the original document.  
http://library.thinkquest.org/11683/declare.html
Celebrate Freedom Week Curriculum Guide 2011

Declaration of Independence Road Trip
The Declaration of Independence Road Trip is an effort to take a Dunlap Broadside copy of the Declaration of Independence around the country. The Web site includes a fourteen minute video of various celebrities reading the Declaration of Independence.
http://www.independenceroadtrip.org

Federal Judiciary
The Federal Judiciary, under Educational Outreach area, has a number of resources that provide basic information about the federal court system as well as landmark decisions.
http://www.uscourts.gov

Founding.com
The private Claremont Institute has established a Web site dedicated to the study of the Declaration of Independence called Founding.com: A User’s Guide to the Declaration of Independence.
www.founding.com/

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
The Gilder Lehrman Institute offers a growing variety of resources to assist teachers and students. It offers professional development opportunities for educators and provides documents and exercises for classroom use.
http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/index.html

Independence National Historic Park
The Independence National Historic Park provides photographs and text information about each of the historic sites in the Independence National Historic Park.
http://www.nps.gov/inde

Justice Learning’s Guide to the Constitution:
What it says. What it means. Interactive timelines.
http://www.justicelearning.org/justice_timeline/Articles.aspx

Law Related Education, Inc. (LRE)
Law Related Education, Inc., sponsored by the State Bar of Texas has at least fourteen online interactive lessons for students as well as a number of lessons on the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other resources.
http://texaslre.org
Library of Congress
The Library of Congress’ American Memory collection offers public access to digital reproductions of a wide range of historical and cultural documents including *Documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1774-1789*. memory.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds/bbsdhome.html

The Library of Congress’ Web site has more than one hundred American Memory collections of historical audio recordings, documents, films, maps, and photographs with lesson plans for using the collections in a classroom. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

Monticello: The Home of Thomas Jefferson
*Monticello Explorer* provides viewers with an in-depth look at the home of Thomas Jefferson. The site includes narrated tours, models of houses, animation and an interactive map. The Education link provides numerous resources for teachers and students. http://www.monticello.org

The National Constitution Center
The National Constitution Center, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by Congress to increase understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to daily lives of Americans, maintains a frequently updated site on the Constitution. wwwconstitutioncenter.org/

The Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA) and Law-related Education (LRE)
The Law-related Education (LRE) Department of OBA was established in 1989 to further the OBA’s goals of increasing public service and enhancing public understanding of the law and the legal system. To that end, LRE endeavors to educate citizens in a constitutional democracy and to create an active and responsible citizenry. http://www.okbar.org/public/lre/default.htm
Oklahoma Council on Economic Education
Celebrate Freedom Week resources and downloadable lessons, including *The Declaration of Independence: In Search of Economic and Political Freedom*. In the five lessons students will examine the wording of key sections of the Declaration of Independence; consider the Delegates’ consequences in signing the Declaration of Independence; explore attitudes, beliefs and historical setting influencing the U.S. Constitution; discuss “public” vs. “private” goods; and review the costs and benefits of Freedom of Expression.

http://www.ocee-ok.org/celebratefreedom.htm

100 Milestone Documents
To help teachers think, talk and teach about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy, Our Documents.Gov invites you to explore 100 milestone documents in American history. These documents reflect our nation’s diversity and our unity; our past and our future; and mostly our commitment as a nation to continue to strive to “form a more perfect union.”

http://www.ourdocuments.gov/

Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History
While the National Museum of American History is closed until late 2008 for renovation, the Web site has a link to history and cultures that include Profiles of Our Nation’s Leaders, Building the Nation, America on the Move, and other topics that may connect to Celebrate Freedom Week.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/

The Star Spangled Banner
The Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History is the home of an American treasure—the *Star-Spangled Banner*, the flag that inspired our national anthem. In this Web site, you can discover the history of the Star-Spangled Banner, consider the flag’s symbolism, learn about the conservation process, and explore our educational offerings.

http://americanhistory.si.edu/ssb/2_home/fs2.html

The U.S. Constitution Online
The U.S. Constitution Online has numerous links to the U.S. Constitution and related resources as well as to the Articles of Confederation.

http://www.usconstitution.net

United States National Archives
The United States Archives house the Founding Documents. This Web site links to the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other related documents and resources.

http://www.archives.gov
Curriculum Resources

While the Oklahoma State Department of Education does not endorse any particular program or Web site, the informational resources provided below may be useful in developing programs for Celebrate Freedom Week. The following Web sites contain lessons created by teachers and other social studies educators from across the nation for Celebrate Freedom Week.

American Heritage Education Foundation Lessons
http://www.americanheritage.org/k-12_lessons.html

This Web site provides learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and teachers. These resources will teach how our government works.
http://bensguide.gpo.gov/

Bill of Rights Institute
The Bill of Rights Institute provides information about liberties guaranteed in the Founding documents, the ideas and words of the Founders and how the Founding Principles shape a free society.
http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org

Center for Civic Education -- Lessons
“We the People… The Citizen and the Constitution”
“What is a Republican Government?”
“What Responsibilities Accompany Rights?”

Celebrate Freedom Week through Technology!
http://www.wtvi.com/TEKS/01_02_articles/celebratefreedom.html

Congress for Kids from the Dirksen Congressional Center
Learning about government does not have to be boring. Congress for Kids gives you access to interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help you learn about the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect you. Although designed for students in Grades 4-12, other students, teachers, parents, and interested citizens will find helpful, engaging activities, too.
http://www.congressforkids.net/
Constitutional Rights Foundation (CFR)
This Web site presents a series of free online lessons, resources from the CRF catalog, and Internet links to help educators design their own Constitution Day program.
http://crf-usa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.htm

Discovery School.Com: Early American Leaders--U.S. History Lesson Plan
This Web site for Grades K-5 presents “Early American Leaders,” which includes vocabulary, procedures for the lesson, and Internet links.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Celebrate Freedom Week Resources
http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/is/ss/files/C433F067FC1E463F946D33DBE74F5352.doc

Oklahoma Council on Economic Education
Celebrate Freedom Week resources and downloadable lessons, including *The Declaration of Independence: In Search of Economic and Political Freedom*. In the five lessons students will examine the wording of key sections of the Declaration of Independence; consider the Delegates’ consequences in signing the Declaration of Independence; explore attitudes; beliefs and historical setting influencing the U.S. Constitution; discuss “public” vs. “private” goods; and review the costs and benefits of Freedom of Expression.
http://www.ocee-ok.org/celebratefreedom.htm

Region XIII Education Service Center, Austin, Texas
*Freedom Week Ideas and Lesson Plans* from the Region XIII Education Service Center. This word document includes Web sites, daily school announcements for a week-long celebration, “Who Am I?” lesson, and additional teaching ideas and activities.
www.alief.isd.tenet.edu/Chambers/FREEDOM%20WEEK.doc

St. Johns County School District, St. Augustine, Florida
http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/is/ss/constitutionday.html

Texas LRE Lesson, K-2
**Literary Resources**

While the Oklahoma State Department of Education does not endorse any particular literary resource, the information provided below may be useful in developing programs for Celebrate Freedom Week and Constitution Day. All works should be previewed according to local district policies before using them for instructional purposes in the classroom.

**Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People from the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)**

One of the first resources social studies educators should turn to in identifying both nonfiction and historical fiction for instructional use is the NCSS [http://www.socialstudies.org](http://www.socialstudies.org) annual list of *Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People*. NCSS has released annual listings since 2000. The lists are available as a free download in PDF format at [http://www.socialstudies.org/notable](http://www.socialstudies.org/notable).

**Suggested Reading List**

Adler, David A. (1991) *A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson*. This is a good book from an excellent series of biographies. (Grade 3)

Avi. (1984) *The Fighting Ground*. This is an account of two days of a boy’s life during the American Revolution. After he is captured in battle by three Hessian soldiers, Jonathan realizes that fighting is a complex activity and that informed choices are extremely important. (Grades 3-8)

Barnes, Peter W. and Cheryl Shaw. (1996) *House Mouse, Senate Mouse*. A children’s book that teaches children about our nation’s Capitol building and takes them through the legislative process. (Elementary)


Barnes, Peter W. and Cheryl Shaw. (1998) *Woodrow, the White House Mouse*. A children’s book that teaches children about the presidency and the nation’s most famous mansion. (Elementary)

Bial, Raymond. (1999) *The Underground Railroad*. Full color photographs of the relics of slavery in America illustrate this brief explanation of the institution of slavery and those who suffered under it. (Grade 3 and older)


Collier, James L. and Collier, Christopher. (1989) *My Brother Sam is Dead*. This is an excellent historical fiction book for the young adult age group. It shows the devastation of the war on a loyalist family. (Middle School)

Freedman, Russell. (1989) *Lincoln: a Photobiography*. Newberry Award winner! Amply illustrated, the narrative moves smoothly (Grade 5 and older)

Fritz, Jean. (1973) *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?*
Fritz, Jean. (1996) *Can’t You Make Them Behave, King George?*
Fritz, Jean. (1998) *Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution.*
Fritz, Jean. (1997) *Will you Sign Here, John Hancock?*
Fritz, Jean. (1996) *What’s the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*
Fritz, Jean. (1996) *And then What Happened, Paul Revere?*
Fritz, Jean. (1997) *Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold*
Fritz, Jean. (1997) *Where was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?*
Fritz, Jean. (1996) *Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?*
Fritz, Jean. (1998) *The Great Little Madison*

These historical fiction books by Jean Fritz are for Grades 3-8. Although targeted for Grade 5, they can be read to Grade 3 students and are excellent for use with challenged readers at the 8th grade level.

Fritz, Jean. (1987) *Brady*. The story is set in 1836 in Pennsylvania. Here the Underground Railroad is the focus. Brady is a teenager whose father is an Abolitionist preacher. His mother grew up in the South and is not convinced that slavery is wrong. Brady must make decisions about his beliefs and his actions. He finds the strength to keep a secret when he comes to understand the effects his actions have on something larger than himself. (Grade 4 and older)

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*. This is a classic, and still one of the best historical fiction books about the beginnings of the American Revolution. (Grades 4-8)
Fox, Paula. (1996) *The Slave Dancer*. Thirteen-year-old Jessie, a white boy, is kidnapped because of his ability to play the fife. On board the ship he becomes an unwilling participant in the slave trade. Since the slaves must be exercised, Jessie is to play music and they must dance. The ship is wrecked and the only two survivors are Jessie and a young slave. (Grade 4 and up)


These well-written and very readable American history books cover the entire span of American history. They are thorough and interesting narrative history. Hakim is an engaging storyteller. Most chapters are 4-6 pages long. The readership audience is Grades 5-8, but can be read to younger students or used by high school who readers challenged to comprehend the regular textbook.

Hakim, Joy. (2003) *Freedom: A History of US.* This is the single-volume, companion book to the PBS Series by the same title. “From the forging of the Declaration of Independence to the challenges we face in the world today, this is the story of who we are. A history of US.” -from the front jacket. (Middle School-High School)

Hamilton, Virginia. (1993) *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales.* This superb collection of twenty-four African American folk tales is perfect for reading aloud, for recommendation to less able readers, and for just plain wonderful reading. Many of these tales are slave tales about freedom. (Grade 3 and older)


Lester, Julius. (2000) *To Be a Slave.* Using writings and interviews of the slaves as primary sources, the author chronicles their capture, transport, and enslavement in the South during and after the Civil War. The book presents a terrible and intimate portrait of slavery. Because it includes names, the book is a rich source for role-playing activities and serves as an example of the differences between primary and secondary sources. (Grade 5 and older)
Levy, Elizabeth. *If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution*. This is an informational book written for upper elementary.

Knight, James E. (1998) *Boston Tea Party: Rebellion in the Colonies*. This book gives a good description of the Boston Tea Party and the events leading up to it. (Grades 4-8)

Myers, Walter Dean. (1999) *One More River to Cross: An African American Photograph Album*. This is a photographic hymn to the power and joy of a justly proud people. Lyric prose combines with the photographs to give the history of African Americans from slavery to the present. (Grade 3 and older)

O'Dell, Scott. (1991) *Sarah Bishop*. This is excellent historical fiction for the young adult age group, featuring a strong female lead character. This book will give the reader lots to think about. (Middle School)

Reit, Seymour. (1990) *Guns for General Washington: A Story of the American Revolution*. This is a fictionalized account of Henry Knox’s trip from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston to break the siege of Boston. (Grades 3-8)

Rinaldi, Ann. (1993) *Wolf by the Ears*. This novel deals with the children of Thomas Jefferson by his slave/mistress Sally Heming. Secure and slightly pampered Harriet Heming is loath to leave Monticello even though Jefferson has never admitted that she is his. If Harriet leaves, she must go far from home for freed slaves are not allowed to live in Virginia. (Grade 6 and older)

Rockwell, Anne. (2000) *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*. The dramatic text gives information about slavery in the northern United States in the early 1800s. That's where the slave named Isabelle lived her long and inspiring life. The book covers her early years up to her travels as an advocate for civil rights. (Grade 3 and older).

Seabrooke, Brenda. (1990) *The Chester Town Tea Party*. This is a fictionalized account of an event in 1774 Maryland that supported the Boston Tea Party. Many details of life in Colonial America are imbedded in the story.


Stevens, Bryna. (1984) *Deborah Sampson Goes to War*. Set in New England 1781-1783, this is an easy-to-read biography of Deborah Sampson who posed as a man to fight in the American Revolution. After the war, Deborah Sampson received an honorable discharge and a military pension because of her wounds. She later became the first woman lecturer in the United States.

Thomas, Velma Maia. (2001). *No Man Can Hinder Me” The JOURNEY from SLAVERY to EMANCIPATION through SONG*. The book comes with an audio CD of 18 spirituals. (Middle School-High School)
Wood-Brady, et al. (1993) *Toliver’s Secret*. This is exciting historical fiction featuring a strong female character as the heroine. (Grades 5-8)

Woodruff, Elvira. (1993) *George Washington’s Socks*. This is historical fiction involving time travel. (Grades 3-6)
Veterans Day Assembly Resources

Veterans Day Teacher Resource Guide from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs’ 2009 Veterans Day Resource Guide provides the following kinds of resources:

1. School Assembly “Program Guide,”
2. Classroom Activity Guide,
3. Student Resources, and
4. Kid’s Packet.

Link to current the Veterans Day Resource Guide:
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/schoolkit.pdf

Veterans Day Poster Gallery
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp

Veterans Day Home Page
Visit the Veterans Day Home Page for much more Veterans Day information.
http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/index.asp
Celebrate Freedom Week Contact Information

Please contact Kelly Curtright, Director, Social Studies, at (405) 522-3523, or e-mail Kelly_Curtright@sde.state.ok.us with questions regarding Celebrate Freedom Week.
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Acknowledgments

The Oklahoma State Department of Education would like to thank and recognize the following Celebrate Freedom Week Curriculum Guide Project Committee members for their professional expertise and service on behalf of the educators and students of Oklahoma in creating the Celebrate Freedom Week Curriculum Guide.

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