

## Freedom and the Nation's Founding Documents

Grade Level 3-5, 6-8, 8-12

Subjects: Civics, History; Topics: Race & Ethnicity, Rights & Activism

Web Version: <https://www.tolerance.org/learning-plan/freedom-and-the-nations-founding-documents-o>

This lesson was designed to have student's critically look at the nation's founding documents to assess who they granted freedom and liberty to.

Additionally they were designed to supplement reading "[Mumbet's Declaration of Independence](#)" by Gretchen Woelfle.

### **Questions to consider:**

- Did the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution give all people the same rights?
- Did the state constitutions (particularly Massachusetts and New Hampshire) provide the same rights, more, or less than the United States Constitution?
- Do rights and responsibilities change over time?
- How have people advocated and fought for justice throughout history?
- What privileges do I have that others don't?

### **Activities:**

- Write an acrostic poem for the word Freedom
  - Ex: Sun  
Play outside  
Rainy  
Insects come out  
Nice out  
Green
- Create a collage that shows how you think Mumbet felt when she asked Mr. Sedgwick to help her gain her freedom.
- Create a [word cloud](#) that describes Mumbet

### **Additional Readings:**

[Freedom Petition Submitted by Enslaved People to the New Hampshire State Legislature in Portsmouth on Nov. 12, 1779](#)

[Mum Bett's Freedom Tale](#) By Anne Broyles

[Preamble to the US Constitution](#)

[An Excerpt from the United States Declaration of Independence](#)

[Massachusetts Constitution](#)

[New Hampshire Constitution - Bill of Rights](#)

[Elizabeth Freeman](#)