Freedom and the Nation's Founding Documents

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