

Title:  
Communication Cards for Our Founding Fathers

Content Area: Social Studies

Relation to Core Standards:

5.H.1.2

Summarize the political, economic and social aspects of colonial life in the thirteen colonies.

5.H.2.1

Summarize the contributions of the "Founding Fathers" to the development of our country.

5.H.2.2

Explain how key historical figures have exemplified values and principles of American democracy.

Rationale:

This lesson stretches students to make a communication board, similar to Jason's. This activity will challenge them to think critically about communication and words during their study of colonial America.

Procedure

- Read Social Studies text on the Founding Fathers
- Do and think, pair, share or conduct whole group discussion
- The students will know the names of the founding fathers and will understand their passion for freedom
- The student will understand the concepts of freedom, democracy and representation.
- Discuss with the students how Jason understood everything, even though he relied on just a few words. The communication cards were vital to Jason. Although we are now studying a time period which was over 200 years ago, we can find a similarity in that in those days fewer (but more powerful) words were used. If the Founding Fathers used communication cards, they might read:  
Freedom. Independence. Representation. Democracy. (In 1775 the political scene was totally different from today's where we see our leaders constantly on television. They make speeches; they debate; they buy ads for their campaigns. We are literally deluged with their words.) Have a small class discussion about the words which were important in the chapters being studied.
- Give the students eight communication cards. These can just be whole index cards, or even cards cut in half. Each student makes eight cards. These communication cards can become study guides as students study Colonial America, the Revolution and the making of the Constitution. They can be kept in any way which will fit with classroom routine so that they may be referred to again for discussion and review. One idea is to place them in small photo albums. Another idea is to use the communication cards to make a Word Wall.

- For a formative assessment, students can form groups of three or four and make word clouds from their words.

Materials:

Index cards  
Coloring and drawing supplies

References:

Lord, C. (2006). *Rules*. New York: Scholastic.