



Rights & Responsibilities in History Concept Lesson

2024-2025 NHD Theme Introduction

If you would like to submit additions to this lesson plan, extension activities you used in your classroom, photos of your students participating, questions, or any other content to our Education Dept. Please email: krex@azhs.gov. We would love to hear from you!

<i>NHD Theme Concept Lesson</i>
<u>Objectives:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students can explain the concept of rights & responsibilities in history● Using context clues students can create a working definition of the term rights & responsibilities .● Students can explain what is a right and what is a responsibility in a historical context..● Students will categorize whether a topic is a civil, political, social, economic, and human rights; or a combination of the types listed.● Students will categorize what types of responsibilities different groups have to ensure that rights are guaranteed.● Students can reflect and explain examples of rights AND responsibilities in history.
<u>AZ Standards</u> 4th-12th grades

ELA:

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly by developing a class definition for terms.
- Demonstrate and apply handwriting skills.
- Know and apply spelling conventions and patterns.
- Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Social Studies:

- Construct arguments and explanations using reasoning, examples, and details from sources.
- Utilize a variety of sources to construct a historical narrative exploring Arizona's cultures, civilizations, and innovations.

Pre-Assessment: Pre-reading

Materials: 2025 Theme Narrative for Rights & Responsibilities in History (handout)

Activity:

- Pass out Reading passage for students to preview.
- Underline context clues in sentences to help develop a definition.
- Discuss those words and their meanings

Mini lesson Title: Brain Dump Rights & Responsibilities

- Each student group takes a piece of paper and folds it in half to divide the activity into two separate sides.
- After reading the passage on rights and responsibilities and underlining the context clues students get in groups and write down every single word or phrase they think of when they hear the word Rights. Then repeat the brain dump for the word Responsibilities.
- Each group must document at least 15 words/phrases.
- Each group will share their list. If a group has something different then the group will add the new information.

Guided Practice: Categorize Rights & Responsibilities

1. Now that each group has many examples of rights and responsibilities as a group they will categorize them into one of the categories of rights (Civil, Political, Social, Economic, or Human).

2. Now each group will take the examples of the rights or responsibilities that they listed and determine if they fit into the category of Legal, Civil, Social, or Ethical.

Define Rights & Responsibilities

1. Using the information in the categories, each group will write a definition for the term Right and the term Responsibility.
2. Each group will share their definition and as a class create a working definition for Rights & Responsibilities to use moving forward in developing their projects.

Handout

2025 Theme Narrative for Rights & Responsibilities in History

The theme for National History Day is very broad by design. This allows you, the student, to choose family, local, national, or world history topics.

It is important to remember that with rights come responsibilities. In the present day, we read and hear discussions about, “my rights” or “our rights”. While we all have the right to freedoms such as free speech, we also have a responsibility to use these freedoms in a manner that respects the rights and responsibilities and well-being of others. Also a clear understanding of how that responsibility is necessary for the greater good of all. NHD theme is focused on **both** historical rights **and** responsibilities. Your projects will need to focus on both as well.

They are often, though not always, protected by laws, charters, or constitutions that establish the boundaries of personal freedoms (rights) and protections and obligations (responsibilities). Rights are freedoms or privileges that individuals possess. There are different types of rights.

Civil-nonpolitical rights of individuals that their governments (through law) are bound to protect. They can include:

Freedom of speech which is the right to speak freely (within reason).

Freedom of religion, the right to worship the religion of one’s own choice (or decline to worship).

Freedom of assembly is the right to assemble in a group of one’s choosing.

Freedom of petition is the right to ask the government to make a change.

Freedom of the press is the right to report on events and express opinions on the events of the day.

Political rights allow citizens to participate in their government. They can include the right to vote, run for public office, and participate in the process. Political rights ensure citizens have a say in how they are governed.

Social rights establish a basic standard of living for all members of society. Social rights can include the right to an education, safe housing, access to social services such as health care. Access to food and care for children or the elderly.

Economic rights allow people to participate in their economy. Right to own property, work and earn a fair wage. This could also be the right to pursue a career of one’s choosing, to start a business, and have safe working conditions.

Human rights apply to all individuals, no matter who governs them. This is an example of a universal right as they belong to everyone regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender or other identities. These rights are inalienable because they cannot be taken away, surrendered, or transferred unless in specific situations.

With the concept of rights comes a responsibility to ensure them. These expectations of individuals as members of society. These include laws, social norms, or ethical principles designed to promote a society as a whole.

Legal responsibilities are the duty to maintain order and justice within a society. They include obeying laws, paying taxes and respecting the rights of others.

Civic responsibilities are the obligation to participate in the functioning of government. Voting, staying informed about political issues, and engaging in community activities.

Social responsibilities commit an individual to treat others respectfully and kindly and to help those in need. Volunteering in your community or creating organizations that support others are types of social responsibility.

Ethical responsibilities make choices and decisions even when driven by personal values and principles rather than being demanded by law—and making decisions between right and wrong.

The process of rights and responsibilities changing over time reflects societal values, advances in science, medicine, and technology, and our understanding of human dignity and well-being. Relationships between rights and responsibilities are crucial to maintaining and functioning societies. Citizens enjoy certain rights that protect their freedoms, they also bear the responsibilities to one another.