

DISCOVERING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

LIBERAL ARTS

Designed For Students:
Grades 3rd-12th
Ages 8-18

HELLO EDUCATOR!

Disney Youth Education Series is pleased to be able to provide you with these materials to gauge your students' progress as they prepare for and complete their Disney Y.E.S. experience.

To encourage creative thinking, open-mindedness, and generate excitement, we suggest that you use the Pre-Trip Coursework to help your students prepare for Discovering the American Spirit. Upon your return to school, you might find the Post-Trip Assessment useful to measure student learning.

These tools are sure to get your students moving in the right direction and help ensure a learning experience that is relevant, inspiring, and thought-provoking!

We look forward to hosting you at the Walt Disney World® Resort where iconic settings, imagination, and storytelling come together to create a unique learning environment and life-long memories. See you soon!

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1. Student Government classroom discussion:

- Students to discuss the following:
 - ✓ The role of student government/council within a school body.
 - ✓ The method by which individuals in their school become members of student government/ council.
 - ✓ What are the qualifications needed for membership in the student government/council?
 - ✓ What are the qualifications for leadership roles within student government/council?
 - ✓ How are issues brought before the student government/council?
 - ✓ How are issues resolved by the student government/council?
 - ✓ What are the benefits of having a student government/council?

2. Living in the New World Activity:

- Students to divide into small teams of 4 or 5.
- Each team to research one of the following topics:
 - ✓ Mayflower Compact–Its relationship to written constitutions
 - ✓ Stamp Act–Why was it considered such a radical change from previous taxing policy
 - ✓ Slavery–Its role in Colonial America
 - ✓ French and Indian War–Its relationship to the American Revolution
 - ✓ Sons of Liberty–Their role in Colonial protests
- Discuss how these issues affected the formation of the United States of America.

3. Map Activity:

- Students to create a map of the territorial acquisitions of the United States.
- Students to label on the map the following:
 - ✓ The original 13 states
 - ✓ When additional states were admitted to the Union
 - ✓ Which states were “free” and which were “slave”
- Students to research what challenges/problems were created by the acquisition of new territory.
 - ✓ Slavery in the new territory
 - ✓ How the acquisition of a territory affected the relationship of the United States and other countries
 - ✓ The challenges of governing a rapidly expanding nation
- Students to discuss how the expansion of the United States affected American life.

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At the conclusion of the Disney Youth Education Discovering the American Spirit experience, have each student do the following:

1. Identify the four elements of story and apply them to historical contexts.
2. Discuss the impact of the American westward expansion upon slavery and succession issues.
3. Articulate the qualifications necessary to be president of the United States.
4. Articulate the importance of representation in the American government.
5. Discuss the issue of representation as it was debated in the Constitutional Convention.
6. Articulate a contribution for each of the first eighteen presidents of the United States.
7. Discuss how written documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the presidential oath of office play a vital role in the decision making process of governmental bodies and leaders.