

The Declaration of Independence - 1st Grade

Declaration of Candy Freedom

objective

Students will understand the concept of independence and apply it to a fun scenario by creating their own Declaration of Candy Freedom, expressing their desire for fair treatment.

materials

1. M&M candies (or pictures of M&Ms)
2. large paper or poster board
3. markers or crayons
4. paper
5. pencils

introduction

- Gather students and review what they learned about the Declaration of Independence.
- Simplify the concept of independence by relating it to having the freedom to make choices and be treated fairly.
- Reintroduce the scenario of the M&M board game tax, where students pretend they are being unfairly taxed for a game they love.

discussion

- Engage students in a discussion about fairness and why it is important.
- Ask questions like:
 - "What does it mean to be fair?"
 - "How do you feel when things are not fair?"
 - "Why is it important for everyone to have an equal chance to play?"

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activity

- Explain that students will now have the opportunity to create their own Declaration of Candy Freedom.
- Distribute paper and pencils to each student.
- Encourage students to think about what they would like to declare independence from and why.
- Provide prompts if needed, such as:
 - "What rule in the game feels unfair?"
 - "How would you like things to be different?"
- Once students have written their declarations, allow them to illustrate their ideas.

sharing & reflection

- Invite students to share their declarations with the class.
- Hang the declarations on a bulletin board or display area for all to see.
- Lead a brief discussion about the similarities and differences among the declarations.
- Ask students to reflect on what they learned about independence.

conclusion

- Summarize the lesson by making connections between the Declaration of Independence and the declarations created by students.
- Challenge students to come up with solutions to the fairness issues presented in their declarations, encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills.