



## **EDUCATIONAL PLANS FOR CELEBRATING THE 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF MAGNA CARTA**

### **Classroom Instruction:**

1. In Good Faith and Without Evil Intent: An interactive audio-visual timeline for exploring the connections between Magna Carta, its foundations in prior law, and its influence on the development of Western legal and political thought. Students will be able to use the timeline to research and test their knowledge of Magna Carta's key concepts as reflected in the documents and events included in the presentation" The time lime can be made available over the internet or as a standalone presentation on a classroom-based computer.
2. The creation of a "graphic novel" – coloring book – on the battle between the barons and King John that led to the sealing of Magna Carta (Vol. 1) and a second volume that would trace the history of the key principles of Magna Carta through important historical documents since 1215 – English Petition of Right, English Bill of Rights, Virginia Resolutions, Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, Declaration of Independence, *etc.*
3. Compile an annotated list of useful resource links on Magna Carta – relevant documents, free resources, links to films/documentaries, *etc.*
4. Create "The ABCs of Magna Carta," a vocabulary builder and concept development activity.
5. Magna Carta History Lab – A document-based activity that pairs students to defend or refute a thesis in light of their reading of the documents.
6. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms and Magna Carta – An interdisciplinary activity combining Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech, Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms series of illustrations, and Magna Carta in which students examine the connection between the four freedoms and key principles of Magna Carta, then select a section of Magna Carta to visually capture the essence of that particular section (students may be instructed to use artistic styles typical of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century).
7. Use the REED-LO<sup>®</sup> lesson template, designed by Scott Crawford, to examine the Magna Carta art found in the Supreme Court Building; optionally, students could use this template to examine 13<sup>th</sup> Century art as it relates to various parts of Magna Carta.
8. The Magna Carta Tapestry: Using the Bayeux tapestry as a model, students create a visual tapestry that includes the history leading up to Magna Carta and captures the key principles of the document that still have relevance today by illustrating those connections to current events. The "Tapestry" would be no more than 2 feet wide and as long as necessary to capture the required content.

### **Current Events:**

1. Use Magna Carta and Constitutional concepts to analyze the National Defense Authorization Act which authorizes the president to detain indefinitely terrorist suspects without due process.
2. Using a template based on the design of Magna Carta, students create a new Magna Carta that deals with modern constitutional issues – protecting intellectual property rights in a technological age; application of due process in the face of terrorist attacks; expansion of human rights in countries that have strict laws limiting individual freedoms based on gender, religious beliefs, ethnic heritage; state instigated land seizures; environmental sustainability; accessible health care; access to education for females; *etc.*
3. Editorial Connections: Students collect editorials from daily newspapers to bring to class that have a connection to key principles in Magna Carta. The teacher spends part of each day (5-10 minutes) asking students to justify their choice. Students submit their editorials each day for a small grade. On Friday, the class has a short quiz or writing activity based on the week's discussions of the editorial connections.
4. An alternative to this activity is to have students collect editorials throughout the week. On Thursday each student gives one editorial to the teacher. On Friday the teacher distributes several editorials to small groups and gives them 10 minutes to select the one editorial they feel is most relevant to Magna Carta.

### **Simulations:**

1. Write a play or screen play for a video that traces the origins and impact of Magna Carta. Students base their presentation on a series of documents that include Magna Carta and other primary legal/political documents influenced by Magna Carta.
2. Research contemporary issues that have their origins in the concerns of Magna Carta and take a stand for or against the issue. Students present their case in the form of a debate or congressional hearing before a panel of judges who rule for or against them based on the soundness of their arguments.
3. Mock trials involving real cases that have direct connections to legal principles outlined in Magna Carta. Students must cite the legal connection to Magna Carta in their argument.