

10 Steps to Freedom | Lesson Plan

What do Americans celebrate on the 4th of July?

Students will learn about the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and the enduring legacy of the fight for independence.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain why the 4th of July is celebrated.
- Define key terms related to the Revolutionary War.
- Retell the events leading to the Revolutionary War.
- Understand why America sought independence from Britain.
- Identify rhyming words in a story about the American Revolution.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Tea Act:** A law that let the British East India Company be the only one to sell tea in the 13 colonies, leading to the Boston Tea Party and the American Revolution.
- **Colonist:** A person who leaves their country to live in a new place and make a home there.
- **Taxation:** The act of the government collecting money (taxes) from people.
- **Representation:** A person or group that makes decisions on your behalf.
- **Militia:** An army composed of ordinary citizens rather than professional soldiers.
- **Declaration of Independence:** The document published by America's Founding Fathers on July 4, 1776, announcing the creation of the United States as a new nation, no longer part of the British Empire.
- **Founding Fathers:** The people who played leading roles in creating the United States, establishing its independence, and designing its Constitution and government.
- **Tyranny:** Unjust or oppressive governmental power.
- **Liberty:** Having the freedom to live your life, believe what you want, and pursue happiness.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.4

Academic Topics: Life Lessons, America, Liberty

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: 10 Steps to Freedom* (Watch [Here](#))
- Book (Optional): *10 Steps to Freedom: A Growing Patriot's Guide to the American Revolution* by Amelia Hamilton
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: 10 Steps to Freedom* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)



1. Initiate a discussion about the 4th of July by asking students how they celebrate the holiday. Ask if students know why they have those traditions.
2. Introduce the video with the enduring question: *What are we celebrating on the 4th of July?* Have students share their ideas.
3. Review the concept of rhyming words. Provide examples and/or write them on the board: *mad, had, sad; pay, day, say; sea, tea, be*, etc. Let the students know that the story they are about to listen to will contain many rhyming words and to be on the lookout for them.

Watch and Discuss: (25 mins.)

1. Play the video *Otto's Tales: 10 Steps to Freedom* for the students. Have students raise their hands or write down any rhyming words they hear throughout the story.
2. Pause at key moments, including the introduction of vocabulary terms, to check for understanding.
 - What led to the colonists wanting independence?
 - How did the colonists gain independence from Britain?
 - What did/does having independence and liberty mean?
 - Why do we celebrate the 4th of July?
3. Hand out the worksheet and instruct students to create their own flags. Encourage them to include symbols or images representing important concepts related to the Revolutionary War, such as liberty, independence, or the thirteen colonies. Students may also dictate or write 1-2 sentences explaining the events that led to the Revolutionary War.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Call on a few students to share their flag designs. (These can be collected as a formative assessment.)
2. End the lesson by reviewing the learning objectives and ask students to summarize why the 4th of July is celebrated.

Extension Activity: Storytelling with Rhymes

Have students gather in a circle and take turns coming up with short rhyming phrases related to the Revolutionary War. For example, "Tea in the sea, what a sight to see!" This activity helps them remember key terms and events while having fun with language.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

Watch the video *10 Steps to Freedom*. Have a discussion about the importance of independence and why we celebrate the 4th of July.