

Let's Visit the Liberty Bell | Lesson Plan

What is the Liberty Bell and what does it symbolize?

Students will understand the story of the Liberty Bell, its symbolism, and the importance of freedom through *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell*.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the historical significance and symbolism of the Liberty Bell.
- Discuss and understand the importance of freedom and why America fought so hard to protect it.
- Identify the main characters and the setting.
- Identify key vocabulary related to *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell*.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Liberty Bell:** A very famous bell that hung from the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House. Americans view the bell as a priceless symbol of freedom.
- **Philadelphia:** An American city in the state of Pennsylvania. The Liberty Bell hung from the steeple at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia and remains on display in the city today.
- **Pennsylvania State House:** The capitol building for the colony of Pennsylvania. Today, it is known as Independence Hall.
- **King George:** The King of Great Britain during the American Revolution. He mistreated the colonies but eventually recognized the United States as a new nation after the colonies won the War of Independence.
- **Civil War:** The war between the Northern and Southern parts of the United States that took place from 1861 to 1865. Prior to and during the Civil War, Liberty Bell inspired many Americans to work hard to end slavery.
- **Clapper:** A piece of metal inside a bell that makes noise by swinging and striking the bell.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.VA.1, CCRA.R.7

Academic Subject Areas: America, Freedom, History

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* (Click [Here](#))
- A small hand-held bell



Scan to watch episode:

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by asking students to imagine a magical bell that holds the secrets of our country's past and rings with stories of freedom. Let students know that they will be going on an exciting journey to discover the fascinating tale of the Liberty Bell.
2. Ring a bell and ask students what the purpose of a bell is.
3. Share that the Liberty Bell is a very famous bell that is viewed by Americans as a priceless symbol of freedom.
4. Use their responses to introduce the topic of *Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* for Otto's Tales Video.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. Encourage students to identify the main characters and the setting.
4. Engage in a brief class discussion about why freedom is important and why America fought so hard to protect it.
5. Craft: Provide each student with a Liberty Bell template or a drawing sheet. Instruct them to color and decorate their Liberty Bell. You can also add a simple outline of the crack to highlight the unique feature.
6. Discussion: After the craft, ask students why the Liberty Bell is so special and important in history.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Sharing Time: Allow each student to share their Liberty Bell craft with the class. Encourage them to explain the colors and any special details they added.
2. Assessment: Assess comprehension and encourage storytelling skills by asking students to retell the story in their own words.
3. Reflection: Ask students to reflect on the importance of the Liberty Bell. Use guiding questions that assess recall and understanding of the story's themes, such as:
 - What did you learn about the Liberty Bell today?
 - Why is the Liberty Bell an important symbol of freedom for America?
 - Why do you think freedom is important?

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the Liberty Bell* and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.