

Teach for Ideas: What Is American?

Grades 4/5

Social Studies Standard(s):

- **4.2.5:** Roles of Citizens: Give examples of how citizens can participate in their state government and explain the right and responsibility of voting. (Core Standard)
- **4.2.6:** Roles of Citizens: Define and provide examples of civic virtues in a democracy.
- **5.2.5:** Foundations of Government: Describe and give examples of individual rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.
- **5.2.8:** Roles of Citizens: Describe group and individual actions that illustrate civic virtues, such as civility, cooperation, respect and responsible participation.
- **National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies Theme 3:** People, Places, and Environments
 - Learners will understand factors that contribute to cooperation and conflict among peoples of the nation and world, including language, religion, and political beliefs
- **National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies Theme 4:** Individual Development and Identity
 - Learners will understand that perceptions are interpretations of information about individuals and events and can be influenced by bias and stereotypes
 - Learners will be able to examine the relationship between individual identity and social, cultural, and historical contexts
 - Learners will be able to describe the influence of perception, attitudes, values, and beliefs on personal identity and the interactions of peoples across time and space

Objectives:

- Students will be able to use words or phrases to describe what an American is.

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Laptops or iPads to view videos
- Printed examples and non-examples (printed at the end of this lesson plan)

Engage/Linkage:

- We have been talking about what it means to be an American. Now we will talk about what an American is. Who is an American? Can anyone be an American? How do you know if someone is an American?

Examples:

- Examples: Passport cover (image), Voting booth (image), American Flag (image: to be printed in color, if possible)
- Non-Examples: Monarchy (image), Dictator (word card), Moon (image)
- Examples: Videos
 - What Makes Us American: A video about all the things from other places that make us American and how, even with such differences, we're all part of the same country. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEiLYB33PA4&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

- Being American (8th Grader's Project): A student's view on the things she cherishes as an American.
https://www.youtube.com/user/mrfishersclass#p/u/45/a4mquK_a4Q0

Assessment:

Are the following American, non-American, or could they be either?

- Immigrant (word card)
- Apple Pie (image)
- Japanese-American Internment Solider (image)
- Antarctica map (image)
- Religious Symbols (image)
- Democracy (word card)
- English Only (word card)

Resources:

- Adams, A. (1943). *Corporal Jimmie Shohara, Manzanar Relocation Center, Calif.* Retrieved March 5, 2011, from Library of Congress: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pnp/ppprs/00200/00263r.jpg>
- Allyssa. (2008, October 7). *Being American*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/mrfishersclass#p/u/45/a4mquK_a4Q0
- Apple Pie Recipe dot ORG. (2010). *Apple Pie Recipe dot ORG - Make Easy Apple Pie Recipes*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from Apple Pie Recipe dot ORG: <http://www.applepierecipe.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Classic-Apple-Pie-Recipe-Picture1.jpg>
- Deodhar, A. (2010, December 14). *A case against religion*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from Indian Liberals: <http://sathyasaibaba.files.wordpress.com/2008/08/symbols-world-religions.jpg>
- Immigration Council. (2008, December 18). *What Makes Us American*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/mrfishersclass#p/u/45/a4mquK_a4Q0
- Independence Hall Association. (2010). *Flags for printing and wallpaper*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from Betsy Ross homepage: <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/flags/usflag640.gif>
- Northumberland LA. (n.d.). *People clipart/royalty.jpg*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from Northumberland grid for learning: http://ngfl.northumberland.gov.uk/clipart/people/images/royalty_jpg.jpg
- Steels II, T. (2008, Octobe 3). *Keeping those voting machines honest*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from The moderate voice: http://themoderatevoice.com/wordpress-engine/files/2008-october/voting_booth.gif

travelBBB.com. (2011, January 12). *Antarctica map/World Travel Pictures*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from World Travel Pictures - travelBBB.com: http://www.travelbbb.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/antarctica_map.gif

Viatour, L. (2008, October 24). *Full moon*. Retrieved March 6, 2011, from Universe Today: <http://www.universetoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/fullmoon.jpg>

Weaver, M. (2009, June 4). *Intelligent travel blog: Ask IT archives*. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from National Geographic Blog: <http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/intelligenttravel/Us-passport.jpg>

Dictator

Immigrant

Democracy

English Only















