The Lincoln Memorial: America’s Gathering Place

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Grade Level: 2
Duration: 1 class period

National Standards
GEOGRAPHY
Element 4: Human Systems
10. The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics.
13. How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.

ELA
Language Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
2.L.6 Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., When other kids are happy that makes me happy).

Writing Production and Distribution of Writing
2.W.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

Overview
The Lincoln Memorial has become a place for peaceable assembly, a right guaranteed in the First Amendment. A true story about the memorial shows students how things that happen to us as children can change our lives in unexpected ways.

Purpose
In this lesson students will learn The United States Constitution provides for “the right of the people peaceably to assemble” and the importance of the Lincoln Memorial as a symbol of American freedom.

Materials
- Sweet Land of Liberty by Deborah Hopkinson
- The Lincoln Memorial worksheet and Answer Key
- The Lincoln Memorial: America’s Gathering Place PowerPoint
- Computer, projection device, and internet

Objectives
The student will be able to:
1. Describe the importance of the right of Americans to peacefully assemble.
2. Identify what Marion Anderson and the Lincoln Memorial symbolize to Americans.

Procedures
Note: If you would like to include video segments to show the events mentioned in this lesson insert them into the included PowerPoint before you start.

1. During read aloud story time, gather students on the carpet and share the book, Sweet Land of Liberty by Deborah Hopkinson.
2. Show the video segment of Marian Anderson singing at the Lincoln Memorial. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAONYTMf2pk
3. Invite all students to sing the song.
4. Return to desks and tell students they are going to learn just how special this memorial to Lincoln is to all Americans.
5. Show the PowerPoint, The Lincoln Memorial: America’s Gathering Place. The words in red will be in the Word Bank for the assessment so you may want to write these key words on the whiteboard with a description of how they apply to this lesson.
6. Use The Lincoln Memorial worksheet as an assessment.

Assessment

Social Science and ELA

Student learning will be assessed on the Lincoln Memorial worksheet. There are 20 possible points (2 points per vocabulary word and 2 points per question). Mastery will be considered 16 points or higher.

Extensions

Have students read and discuss:
- “I Have a Dream” Speech
- “My Country ’Tis of Thee” song
- Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address”

Sources