



## Lesson Plan for Middle School (Grade 8)

### The Enduring Legacy of Revolutionary Ideals

**Subject:** Social Studies **Grade Level:** Middle School (e.g., Grade 8) **SC State Standards:**

- 8-2.4 Compare the perspectives of different groups of South Carolinians during the American Revolution.
- 8-3.1 Explain the tensions between the Upcountry and the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

**Objective:** Students will analyze the powerful and lasting ideals of the American Revolution and how they inspired the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality.

#### **Materials:**

- A large chart with two columns: "The Declaration's Promise" and "Inspired by These Ideals."
- Short primary source documents from key figures like Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., or Mary McLeod Bethune.

#### **Procedure:**

1. **Introduction (10 minutes):** Begin by revisiting the core ideals of the Declaration of Independence. Emphasize that the founders, while imperfect, articulated a vision of liberty and equality that was truly revolutionary and has had a profound impact for over

200 years. Explain that even in their own time, many people were inspired by these words to work for a more just society.

2. **Group Investigation (20 minutes):** Divide students into small groups. Give each group a primary source document that shows a later American leader referencing the Declaration of Independence or America's founding principles in their struggle for civil rights and freedom. For example, a quote from Frederick Douglass about the Fourth of July or a passage from a Mary McLeod Bethune speech.
3. **Class Charting and Discussion (20 minutes):** As a class, fill in the "The Declaration's Promise" and "Inspired by These Ideals" chart. Have each group share how their assigned person was inspired by the ideals of the founders. Discuss how the vision of the founders created a powerful tool for later generations to challenge injustice and demand that the country live up to its highest ideals.
4. **Conclusion & Assessment (10 minutes):** Have students write a short reflective response that answers the following question: "How did the ideals of the Declaration of Independence help shape the future of America, even after the Revolution was over?"