



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

to strengthen teaching in public schools®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2011 Volume III: The Idea of America

The Declaration of Independence: Still Inspiring Americans to Fight for Freedom!

Guide for Curriculum Unit 11.03.10, published September 2011
by Laura Turner

What unifies us as Americans? The philosophy of the Declaration of Independence does. In this unit, second-graders will recognize how each of them is a unique American and how the ideals of the Declaration of Independence unify them with every other American. Students will understand important phrases in the Declaration, identify where America is on a map, and compare and contrast the lives and actions of Americans who have used the Declaration to gain rights for American citizens who at one time were denied equality and/or liberty. The curriculum provides a concise history of events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It also provides details on the lives of Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama, Cesar Chavez and Jane Addams as examples of famous Americans who have used the promises made by the Declaration to gain rights for all Americans.

(Developed for Social Studies/Writing, grade 2; recommended for Social Studies, grades 2-3)

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use