Discover America

Tocqueville's Observations

Faith Supplement



Freedom and Democracy in America

LITTLEPATRIOTS

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Objective

Students will explore Alexis de Tocqueville's observations of American democracy and understand how local government, religious freedom, and the balance of power shaped the nation. They will connect Tocqueville's ideas to biblical principles of freedom, justice, and community.

Memory Verse

Romans 13:1 (NIV)

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established."

Relevant Scripture

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

Teacher Discussion: Tocqueville saw local governments as essential for balancing power and maintaining fairness. His reflections show how God's design for freedom within communities helps guide citizens to act justly and protect one another's rights, as outlined in this passage. Today, your memory verse is Romans 13:1.

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."



Teacher Discussion: This verse calls us to treat others with respect, reflecting the Christian call to justice and fairness that Tocqueville observed in America. Local governments work best when citizens are guided by moral principles that reflect the Golden Rule.

Learning Outcomes

- **Understanding Democracy and Local Government:** Students will recognize the importance of local government in empowering citizens and promoting fairness and justice, both in the United States and through a Christian lens.
- **Biblical Application of Freedom:** Students will relate Tocqueville's observations of freedom to biblical teachings about God-given liberty and the responsibility to act justly in a community.
- **Religious Influence on Society:** Students will understand the role of religion in shaping American society and how Tocqueville saw it as a force that strengthened democracy and personal freedoms. They will also connect this understanding to Christian values, focusing on how faith strengthens freedom and justice.
- **Application of Restraint and Responsibility:** Students will apply the principle of restraint, as observed by Tocqueville, to their own lives, understanding the biblical call to act justly and to respect others' rights while making decisions that honor God.
- **Memory Verse Retention:** Students will commit Romans 13:1 ("Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established") to memory, reflecting on how it relates to Tocqueville's ideas of balanced power and Christian responsibility.

Independent Activity:
The Role of Freedom in Our Lives

Objective

Students will reflect on how Tocqueville's ideas of freedom, responsibility, and restraint can be applied to their own actions and decision-making in their community.

Materials Needed

- Paper and pencils
- Reflection Prompts

Steps

1. Have students read the "Freedom in Our Lives Reflection Sheet" with prompts such as:
    - "How do you show respect for others' freedom in your community?"
    - "How can you ensure that your actions promote fairness and justice?"
2. Students will then write or draw about their personal reflections and share with the class.

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of freedom and the wisdom You provide through Your Word. We thank You for Alexis de Tocqueville's observations on democracy and local government, and we pray that we, as Your people, will live out these principles of justice, fairness, and responsibility. Help us to stand firm in our faith, make wise choices, and honor You in everything we do.

In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Tocqueville's Observations

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Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

In today's class, we explored how Alexis de Tocqueville's observations of American democracy align with the biblical principles of freedom, responsibility, and justice. Students reflected on the role of local government in protecting the rights of individuals, as well as how Christian values guide our actions as responsible citizens. We also discussed how Tocqueville believed that religion and democracy could work hand-in-hand to protect freedom and fairness, a message that aligns with our Christian faith. Please continue the discussion at home, encouraging your child to think about their role in protecting justice and fairness in their community.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning,

In Christ,
[Teacher's Name]

Freedom in Our Lives Reflection Sheet

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Directions: Take a moment to reflect on the ideas we've learned today about freedom, fairness, and responsibility. Use the space below to respond to the prompts. You can either write your answers or draw pictures that help explain your thoughts. Afterward, you will have the opportunity to share your reflections with the class.

Prompt 1: How do you show respect for others' freedom in your community?
(Think about how you treat others and how you protect their rights and choices.)

Response (Write or Draw):

Prompt 2: How can you ensure that your actions promote fairness and justice?
(Consider ways you can make decisions that are fair and kind to others.)

Response (Write or Draw):

Freedom in Our Lives Reflection Sheet

Prompt 3: What does the balance of freedom and responsibility mean to you?
(Reflect on how freedom and making good choices go together.)

Response (Write or Draw):

Reflection: Use the space below to add any other thoughts you have about freedom and responsibility. How can you apply what you've learned today to your own life and community?

Response (Write or Draw):