Second Grade

DISCOVER AMERICA

Teacher Guide



Democracy, Faith, and Freedom: Tocqueville's American Journey

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Key Themes

- American Exceptionalism
- Democracy and Self-Governance
- Local Government as a Foundation for Liberty
- Religious Freedom
- The Importance of Civic Virtue and Engagement
- The Role of Religion in a Free Society



Core Values

- Community
- Faith
- Liberty
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Understand what an observation is and be able to identify things they notice in their surroundings.
- Identify the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
- Recognize the role of self-government and how people make decisions in their towns and cities.
- Understand how the Founding Fathers worked to create a government that protects everyone's rights.
- Discuss how Tocqueville observed the importance of local government and how it helped people live and work together.
- Explain how religion and faith helped guide people's choices in America, according to Tocqueville.
- Recognize the value of responsibility in helping communities grow stronger.
- Write observations about how self-government, faith, and responsibility contribute to a strong community, based on Tocqueville's observations.

Key Terms

01 **Christianity:** a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

02 **citizens:** members of a community who have rights and responsibilities.

03 **criminal justice system:** the group of laws, courts, and leaders that help keep people safe and make sure rules are followed.

04 **Declaration of Independence:** a very important document that was created by the Founding Fathers to tell Great Britain that the colonies were free and were going to govern themselves.

05 **democracy:** a type of government where the people help make decisions by voting for their leaders and laws.

06 **equality:** when everyone is treated the same, no matter their background or who they are.

07 **faith:** believing in something even when you cannot see it.

08 **Federalist Papers:** a collection of essays written by James Madison and Alexander Hamilton that defended the Constitution, explained how the new government would work under it, and how the new government would protect people's rights.

09 **government:** a group of leaders who help make rules and decisions for a community, state, or country.

10 **"habits of the heart":** the way people naturally behave and treat one another.

11 **local government:** the group of leaders in a town or city who help make rules and decisions for the community.

12 **majority:** the larger group of people who agree on something or share the same beliefs.

Key Terms

13 **minority:** the smaller group that has different ideas or beliefs from the majority.

14 **monarchy:** a type of government where one person, like a king or queen, has the power to make all the decisions.

15 **observation:** something you notice by looking, listening, or paying close attention.

16 **religion:** a system of beliefs about God and the world, which often includes worship, prayer, and teachings about how to live a good life.

17 **responsibility:** taking care of things that need to be done and making good choices.

18 **Second Great Awakening:** a time of religious revival that took place from the late 1700s to the early 1800s.

19 **self-control:** stopping to think before you act, and acting only when it is the right thing to do.

20 **self-government:** a type of government where people in a community, state, or country get to make their own rules and choose their own leaders instead of being controlled by a king or ruler.

21 **self-improvement:** working to become better at something, like learning new skills, being kinder, or making good choices.

22 **United States Constitution:** the set of rules that created our country's government. It was written in 1787 by the Founding Fathers to make sure that the government would be fair and protect the rights of the people.

Introduction

TELL Students

Okay, Little Patriots! Today on our journey to learn more about the founding of our country, we are going to have someone join us. We are going to make a lot of observations so get your notebook and pencil ready to go. [Give students a few minutes to get a notebook, or some form of paper and a writing utensil]. An **observation** is something you notice by looking, listening, or paying close attention. It is information you gather about the world around you. For example, if you see that the sky is cloudy, hear birds singing, or feel that the air is cold, those are all observations. Today, we are going to learn about someone who made observations about America, writing down what he saw and learned about how people lived, worked, and governed themselves.

ASK Students

What are some observations you can make about the classroom right now? Look around, listen, and think about what you notice.

TELL Students

Before we begin, let's take a moment to review what we have learned so far. We have been studying our Founding Fathers—the brave leaders who helped create the United States. They wrote important documents that shaped our country and its government. Two of the most important documents are the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. The **Declaration of Independence** was written to tell Great Britain that the colonies were free and would make their own decisions. It explains that all people have natural rights, which means rights that everyone is born with. These rights include life, liberty (freedom), and the pursuit of happiness. The Founding Fathers believed that these rights were given by God, not by a king or government. The Declaration of Independence was adopted, or accepted, on July 4, 1776, which is why we celebrate Independence Day every year on the Fourth of July! **[Reference Fourth of July Image]**

ASK Students

Why did the Founding Fathers write the Declaration of Independence?

Introduction

TELL Students 📷🔑

Remember, after fighting and winning the Revolutionary War, the Founding Fathers needed to create a strong plan for how the new country would be run. They wanted to make sure the United States had fair rules and leaders who would protect the people's rights. That is why they wrote the United States Constitution in 1787. The **United States Constitution** is a set of important rules that created our **government**—the group of leaders who make laws and decisions to keep our country safe and fair. **[Reference U.S. Constitution Image]** It explains how laws are made, who is in charge, and how power is shared so that no one person or group has too much control. One very important part of the Constitution is the Bill of Rights. This section protects important natural rights like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the ability to be treated fairly by the government. These freedoms make sure that every person has a voice and can make choices about their own life. The Constitution is still the highest law in the United States today. It helps guide our country and makes sure we stay free.

ASK Students

What is the name of the important set of rules written after winning the Revolutionary War to help guide our country?

TELL Students 📷

We have learned about the Founding Fathers and the important choices they made to build our country. But today, we are going to learn about someone who was not one of the Founding Fathers and was not from America. Instead, he was a visitor from another country who wanted to understand what made America special. Have you ever been on a field trip to learn something new? Maybe you have visited a museum, a farm, or a science center. Just like you take field trips to explore and discover, Alexis de Tocqueville took a big trip across the United States in 1831 and observed how Americans lived and how their government worked. **[Reference Tocqueville Image]** Tocqueville was from France, and he wanted to understand why America was so successful. During his journey, he made many observations, which means he paid close attention to what he saw and learned. Later, he wrote a book about what he discovered. As we learn about Tocqueville and his observations, make sure to write down your own observations in your notebook! What do you notice about what he learned? What surprises you? Let's get started!

Introduction

ASK Students

What do you think Alexis de Tocqueville might have noticed about America on his trip? What would you look for if you went on a field trip to learn about how people live and work in a new place?

TELL Students 🔑

During his visit, Tocqueville paid close attention to how the government worked in the United States. Remember, a government is a group of leaders who help make rules and decisions for a community, state, or country. It helps keep people safe, makes sure everyone is treated fairly, and makes sure everything runs smoothly. The government is in charge of important things like roads, schools, and parks, and it creates laws that people must follow to keep the country safe and fair. One special kind of government is called a democracy. In a **democracy**, the people help make decisions by voting for their leaders and laws. The United States is a democracy, which means that **citizens**, the people who live in the country, get to choose their leaders and have a say in how the country is run. This helps make sure that everyone's voice is heard and that the government protects the rights and freedoms of all people!

ASK Students

What is a democracy? How do people help make decisions in the United States?

TELL Students 📷🔑

In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville arrived in the United States and spent 10 months traveling across the country. He came with his friend Gustave de Beaumont, and their official job was to study the American criminal justice system for the French government. The **criminal justice system** is the group of laws, courts, and leaders that help keep people safe and make sure rules are followed. However, Tocqueville also used this trip as a chance to learn more about how democracy worked in the United States. At that time, France was struggling to change from a **monarchy**, where a king or queen made all the decisions, to a democracy, where the people help choose their leaders and make decisions for their country. **[Reference Monarchy Image]** Tocqueville wanted to understand how freedom and fairness worked together in America. He was curious about how the government stopped leaders from having too much power and how America stayed strong and stable, while France faced problems and chaos during and after the French Revolution.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

During his journey, Tocqueville wrote down many observations, or things he noticed, about American life, government, and communities. These notes became the foundation for his famous book, *Democracy in America*, which is still an important book about how the United States was built and how democracy works. **[Reference *Democracy in America* Image]**

ASK Students

What was Tocqueville supposed to study when he came to America? What else did he decide to learn about during his trip?

TELL Students

Today, we are going to learn about what Tocqueville discovered about America and why his observations about democracy, religious freedom, and self-government are still important! **Self-government** means that people in a town, state, or country make their own rules and choose their leaders instead of being ruled by a king. In self-government, people work together to make decisions, create laws, and help their community. This is an important part of democracy, which is a type of government where citizens get to have a say in how their country is run. They do this by voting and sharing their ideas. The United States was created with the idea of self-government so that the people, not a king, would have the power to make choices about their own future. This is one of the things that made America special, and it is still an important part of our country today! Don't forget to make an observation in your notebook about self-government. [Give students three minutes to make their observation. Prompt students based on their ability level.]

ASK Students

What does self-government mean?

TELL Students

Alexis de Tocqueville wanted to learn how democracy worked in America, so he paid close attention to local governments in towns and cities. He noticed that whenever people lived near each other, they naturally formed communities where they made rules and worked together. He believed that **local government**, where people in a town help make decisions, was very important because it gave people a voice and helped keep the country strong and free.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

Tocqueville compared local government to a school. Just like schools teach students about reading and math, local government teaches people how to make fair decisions and work together. He saw that when people attended town meetings, voted on local leaders, and helped solve problems in their communities, they were learning how to be responsible citizens. **[Reference Local Government Image]** Because local government is closest to people in their daily lives, it helps them understand and protect their freedoms. Tocqueville believed that a country could not be truly free unless it had strong local governments where people could participate and make their own choices.

ASK Students

Why did Tocqueville think local government was important for keeping a country free?

TELL Students

Tocqueville saw that local government had always been an important part of American life. When the colonists came to America, the king of England gave them special rules called Royal Charters. **[Reference Royal Charters Image]** These rules allowed the colonists to create their own local governments to help make decisions for their towns. Since England was far away, it was difficult for the king to be in charge of everything, so the colonists had to learn how to govern themselves. When Tocqueville visited America, he studied small towns and saw how strong their local governments were. He noticed that when people worked together to run their towns, they felt more connected to their community and helped make it a better place. People learned how to make fair decisions and take care of important things, like roads, schools, and safety.

ASK Students

Why did the colonists need to create their own local governments when they came to America?

TELL Students

Tocqueville also saw that being **responsible** was an important part of keeping a community strong. Being responsible means doing what needs to be done and making good choices. For example, you are responsible when you clean up your toys, finish your homework, or help a friend. It also means thinking about how your actions affect others and doing your best to be fair, honest, and helpful. Now, take a moment to write an observation in your journal!

Introduction

ASK Students

What did Tocqueville learn about local government in America? How do people in your town or school show responsibility and help their community?

TELL Students

At the local level, people could make their own lives better while also helping their community. Tocqueville saw that when people worked hard to improve themselves, they also helped others around them. **Self-improvement** means working to become better at something, like learning new skills, being kinder, or making better choices. **[Reference Self-Improvement Image]** Tocqueville believed that helping others and improving yourself go hand in hand—when people do good things for their community, they also grow as individuals. He also learned that local government is very important because it helps people take care of their towns and make fair decisions. When local governments work well, they help make the whole country stronger. Now, take a moment to write an observation in your notebook about what you just learned!

ASK Students

Can you think of a time when you worked hard to get better at something? How do you think helping others can also help you improve? Why do you think it is important for people to help their community?

TELL Students

Tocqueville learned that when people help their community, they are also helping themselves. He saw that when people worked to make their town a better place, they became good citizens. Remember, a citizen is a person who belongs to a community and has both rights and responsibilities. Citizens follow rules, are kind to others, and work together to solve problems. Tocqueville thought local government, the group of leaders who make decisions for a town, was very important because it helps keep everything fair and safe. He believed that when people are part of local government, they learn to be responsible and protect their freedom. Now, let's watch a Star Spangled Adventures cartoon to learn more about his journey. As you watch the cartoon, think about what you see and hear. Write an observation in your notebook about what makes a good citizen and why local government is important.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

You can think about these questions to help you write:

- What are some things good citizens do to help their community?
- Why is it important for people to work together in their town?
- How do you think local government helps people stay safe and make fair decisions?

Write down your thoughts and we'll talk about them after the video!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 41:
Alexis de Tocqueville/Reflections on American Democracy



Lesson

TELL Students 📷

Let's talk about the observations you made while watching the cartoon. Alexis de Tocqueville had a very exciting adventure, didn't he? His trip across America was like going on a big field trip! He traveled to learn about the country and how its government worked, especially in small towns and cities. While many people think about big national and world issues, Tocqueville saw that local government has the biggest impact on people's everyday lives. Local governments help with important things like schools, roads, making sure neighborhoods are safe, clean water, and emergency services. **[Reference Emergency Services Images]** They help make sure that everything in the community runs smoothly. Tocqueville noticed that in America, people worked together in their towns to take care of important things. He saw that the schools, churches, and roads were better than in other places. Today, there are about 3,144 counties, over 13,000 school districts, and more than 16,500 towns across the United States. Local government, where people make decisions for their communities, is very important and will always help keep the country free. Think about how local government helps you every day and how people in your community work together to make decisions.

ASK Students ✎

What are some things the local government helps with in your community, like schools or roads? Can you think of other ways it helps people every day? [Give students three minutes to discuss with a neighbor and then discuss as a class.]

TELL Students

Local leaders help take care of important places in our town, like schools, parks, roads, and fire stations. They make sure our schools have teachers, our parks are clean and safe, and our roads are fixed so cars and buses can travel safely. They also make sure we have firefighters and police officers to help keep us safe. Local government helps us understand how freedom works and teaches us how to make fair decisions. Since local government is part of our everyday lives, we can get involved by learning about rules, voting when we grow up, and working together to make our community better. A country cannot stay free and strong without local government because it helps make sure people take care of their communities and that everyone is treated fairly.

Lesson

ASK Students

Why do you think local government is important for keeping our town safe and helping everyone? How does it help make sure everyone is treated fairly?

TELL Students

On his trip across America, Tocqueville was impressed by how well local governments worked! He saw that towns and cities had schools, well-maintained roads, and churches where people could gather to worship. He also noticed that the people in each town worked together to make important decisions. This helped them learn how to be good citizens. Being a good citizen means taking responsibility for your community by helping others, following rules, and making smart choices. Today, we still have thousands of towns and schools across the United States, all run by local governments. It is really important for people to help make decisions and take care of their own communities because good citizens keep America strong and free! Now, write an observation in your notebook about what Tocqueville saw in the United States.

ASK Students

What did Tocqueville notice about how people worked together to make decisions in their towns?

TELL Students 🔑

Tocqueville learned many interesting things during his trip across America! One thing that really stood out to him was how important religion was to the American people. **Religion** is a set of beliefs about God and the world. It often includes worship, prayer, and learning how to live a kind and good life. Tocqueville noticed that many Americans had strong faith, and their beliefs helped guide them in making good choices. **Faith** means believing in something even when you cannot see it. Tocqueville was from Europe, where sometimes religion and government didn't work well together. But in America, he saw that Christianity and democracy worked well together. **Christianity** is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Many Americans during this time followed Christianity. And, many Americans believed that their faith helped them make good decisions. Tocqueville saw that religion encouraged people to be honest, kind, and respectful to others, which helped make their communities stronger and more peaceful. Now, as you think about what Tocqueville learned, write down an observation in your notebook.

Lesson

ASK Students

What did you notice about how religion and democracy worked together in America? How do you think religion can help people make good choices and treat others kindly? What do you think Tocqueville learned about how religion can make communities better?

TELL Students 📷🔑

Tocqueville visited America during a special time called the **Second Great Awakening**. **[Reference Second Great Awakening Image]** This was when many people in America became more interested in their faith and went to church more. Christianity became very important to the people in America, and it helped shape their values. Tocqueville saw something different in America compared to Europe. In Europe, religion and freedom didn't always get along. But in America, they worked together. Religion helped people understand what freedom meant and helped them make good decisions. Tocqueville believed that religion helped protect freedom, even though religion wasn't part of the government. As we continue learning about what Tocqueville observed, think about how religion might help people make good choices in their communities. Take a moment to write your thoughts and observations in your notebook!

ASK Students

What do you think Tocqueville learned about how religion and freedom worked together in America? How might religion help people make good choices and protect their freedoms?

TELL Students 🔑

Tocqueville's discovery was very important to him because of the different views he had in his home country, France. In France, many people thought that organized religion, especially the Catholic church, was a problem for democracy. When the French Revolution happened, the people who wanted freedom from the king also attacked the church. This made things very difficult for people who wanted both freedom and religion. Tocqueville saw something different in America. During the Second Great Awakening, many Christians in America began to believe that all people should be treated equally, or with equality. **Equality** means that everyone is treated the same, no matter their background or who they are. Tocqueville noticed that in the United States, Christianity did not fight against freedom. Instead, it helped support democracy and freedom. Tocqueville thought that Christianity helped people understand that everyone should be treated equally.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)
He also believed that in the United States, people of all backgrounds could come together and support the idea that everyone is free and equal. Tocqueville's ideas help us understand how religion and freedom can work together, and why this was important to building a strong country. Take a moment to write your thoughts and observations in your notebook!

ASK Students
What do you think Tocqueville learned about how religion and freedom worked together in America? Why did Tocqueville believe that religion helped make people equal and free? How do you think religion can help people understand freedom?

TELL Students 📷
Tocqueville learned a lot on his field trip across America! One important thing he saw was how religion and freedom worked together. He noticed that in the United States, religious leaders encouraged people to follow the laws, be kind to each other, and help their communities. **[Reference Kindness and Community Helpers Images]** Tocqueville saw that, unlike in some other countries, where people thought religion and freedom couldn't work together, in America, faith helped protect freedom. Tocqueville also learned that Christianity teaches that everyone is equal and should have the same rights. He thought this idea was very important because, in the past, countries like Rome and Greece did not treat all people equally. Tocqueville saw that because of religion, Americans valued freedom, fairness, and respect for others, which made the country stronger. Take a moment to write what you learned and what you think about this in your notebook! What did you observe about how religion and freedom work together?

ASK Students
How do you think religion can help people treat each other fairly and equally? What are some ways that freedom, fairness, and respect make a community stronger?

TELL Students 📷🔑
During his trip across America, Tocqueville noticed something important about democracy. He saw that while democracy worked well, there was a challenge. Sometimes, the larger group of people, called the majority, could make all the decisions.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

The **majority** is the bigger group of people who agree on something, while the **minority** is the smaller group who disagree with the majority. Tocqueville worried that if the majority always made the rules, the smaller group, the minority, might not get to share their ideas or have their rights protected. Tocqueville also learned that the Founding Fathers, like George Washington, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton, thought about this problem too when they made the United States government. **[Reference Washington, Madison, Hamilton Images]** They wanted to make sure everyone's voice was heard, not just the biggest group. Tocqueville read the **Federalist Papers**, a collection of writings from Madison and Hamilton, which explained how the Constitution would protect people's rights. One important idea was that if the majority has too much power, the smaller group, or minority, could lose their freedoms. Tocqueville saw that America's democracy was strong, but it needed to make sure that everyone, no matter how big or small their group is, had a say in the country's future. Write down your thoughts in your journal! What did you learn about how America makes sure everyone has a say, even the smaller group?

ASK Students

Why do you think it's important that everyone's voice is heard, not just the majority? How can we make sure that the smaller group's ideas and rights are protected? What do you think the Founding Fathers did to make sure everyone has a voice?

TELL Students 🔑

During his trip across America, Tocqueville noticed something very interesting. He saw that, except for the injustice of slavery, the majority of people in America did not always take away the rights of the smaller group, called the minority. This was very different from his home country, France, where different groups often had too much power and abused the rights of others. Tocqueville wanted to understand why America was different. He realized that it wasn't just the government that kept things fair, but the way people lived and the choices they made. He called this "**habits of the heart**," meaning how people naturally behaved and made decisions based on their beliefs. Tocqueville saw that many Americans had strong values and followed the teachings of Christianity. These beliefs helped them be fair, kind, and respectful to others. Even though the laws allowed people to make choices, their faith taught them to do what was right and not harm others. Tocqueville also learned that self-control was important for people to live peacefully.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

Self-control means stopping to think before you act, and only acting when it is the right thing to do. It helps you make good choices instead of doing something too quickly. For example, when you want to talk while your teacher is speaking, self-control helps you wait your turn. If you feel angry, self-control helps you take a deep breath and stay calm instead of yelling. Write down your thoughts in your journal! How do you think faith and self-control helped people in America make good choices and protect each other's rights?

ASK Students

What does self-control mean, and why is it important? How do you think Tocqueville's idea of "habits of the heart" helped people make good choices? How do you show self-control in your own life?

TELL Students 📷

When Tocqueville traveled across America, he noticed something important about how people lived and worked together. He saw that the American government did not have many rules to stop the majority (the larger group) from having too much power. But Tocqueville learned that the values of the American people helped keep things fair. He noticed that religion was important because it taught people to make good choices and value kindness and respect in relationships. The Founding Fathers, the people who helped create our country, also thought religion was important for a strong country. **[Reference Founding Fathers Image]** They made sure that no one would be forced to follow a certain religion, but they also believed that religious values could help people make wise and fair decisions. Tocqueville saw that in America, religion and democracy worked together. This helped people stay free and treat each other with respect.

ASK Students

What did Tocqueville notice about how religion helped people in America? Why do you think it was important for the Founding Fathers to make sure no one was forced to follow a certain religion?

TELL Students 📷

In his Farewell Address, President George Washington told Americans that having good values

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

and strong beliefs was very important for keeping the country strong and free. **[Reference Washington Image]** He believed that people should make good choices and treat others with kindness and respect. He warned that if people stopped caring about what is right and wrong, it would be harder to protect freedom. When Tocqueville visited America, he noticed that even though religion was not part of the government, it still helped shape the way people behaved. He saw that religion helped people understand their freedoms and reminded them to do what is right. Don't forget to write your observations in your notebook! Listen to the following questions to help you focus on some important observations.

ASK Students

Why did George Washington think it was important to have good values and beliefs? What did the Founding Fathers do to make sure people had religious freedom?

TELL Students

Tocqueville learned that one of the strongest things about the United States was self-government. Self-government means that people get to make their own rules and decisions in their towns and cities. Tocqueville saw that people would go to town meetings, vote on important things, and work together to help their community. By doing these things, they learned how to be responsible and how to become good leaders as they grew up. Tocqueville also noticed that the beliefs and values people had helped them make good choices and kept the country strong. He saw that in America, faith and democracy worked together. Many people used their faith to help them be kind, fair, and make good decisions. Because of this, people worked together, and everyone could share their ideas. Tocqueville believed this was one reason why democracy worked so well in the United States.

ASK Students

What is self-government, and why is it important? How did Tocqueville see people in America working together to help their communities? Why did Tocqueville think faith and democracy worked well together?

Lesson

TELL Students 📷

Alexis de Tocqueville learned many important things on his trip across America! He saw that people in towns and cities worked together to solve problems and make decisions for their communities. This helped them learn how to be responsible, take care of their neighbors, and play an active part in their government. By helping in their local government, people understood how democracy worked and why it was important to have fair leaders who listened to the people. Tocqueville also noticed that when people in small towns took part in their local government, it helped make the whole country stronger. He saw that faith, especially Christianity, helped people make good choices and treat others with fairness and respect. This helped keep the government balanced and made sure no one group had too much power. He believed that when people had strong values and worked together, their communities and the country would be successful. Tocqueville's ideas are still important today! Self-government, strong American values, and working together are what keep our country strong. **[Reference American Flag Image]** Today, people still vote, attend town meetings, and help make decisions for their schools, neighborhoods, and cities. Just like in Tocqueville's time, Americans take responsibility for their communities and work together to solve problems. His trip taught him that democracy only works when people stay involved, and this lesson is just as important today as it was when he traveled across America.



Tocqueville's Travels: Observing Democracy in Action

Objective

Second-grade students will gather observations based on what they have learned about Tocqueville's journey and the principles of democracy, religion, and self-government. They will then create a display to share their insights with the class, emphasizing the importance of local government, fairness, self-government, and values that support a strong community.

Materials Needed

- Large poster board or bulletin board space
- Construction paper
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Glue sticks or tape
- Scissors
- Observation journals (notebooks)
- Sticky notes or small index cards

1. Review

What is an Observation?

- Begin by reviewing the definition of observation with the class. Remind them that an observation is something they notice by looking, listening, or paying close attention to the world around them.

2. Tocqueville's Journey

Discuss the journey Alexis de Tocqueville took across America and what he learned. Focus on key points, such as:

- The importance of local government
- The role of faith and religion in shaping people's values
- How democracy and self-government work together to protect freedom
- The value of everyone's voice, especially the minority, in a democracy



Tocqueville's Travels: Observing Democracy in Action

3. Writing Observations

Have the students go back to their journals and write 3-5 observations from the lesson. Prompt them to think about the following:

- What did Tocqueville notice about how people lived and worked together?
- What makes a good citizen in a community?
- How does religion help people make good decisions?
- How does self-government work in communities?

4. Create an Observation Display

- Each student will take their observations and write them on a piece of construction paper or a sticky note.
- Students can then draw a picture or illustration related to their observation, like a picture of people working together or voting.
- They will arrange these notes and pictures on the poster board or bulletin board to create a cohesive display of their observations.

5. Sharing Observations with the Class

After students finish their displays, they will take turns presenting their observations to the class.

- As each student shares, they can explain what they wrote and why they think it's important for building a strong and fair community. Encourage students to ask each other questions about their observations after each share.

6. Class Reflection

- After everyone has shared their observations, hold a class discussion about the things they noticed. Use prompting questions like:
  - How did Tocqueville see the importance of local government in America?
  - What values helped make America a strong democracy?
  - Why is it important for everyone, including the minority, to have a say in how things are decided?
  - What are some ways you can show responsibility in your community?



Tocqueville's Travels: Observing Democracy in Action

7. Closing Activity

Have students write a final observation in their journals about something they learned from their classmates' presentations or something new they noticed during the class discussion.

Expected Outcome

By the end of the activity, students will be able to explain what an observation is, how democracy works, and why faith and self-government are important to a free and strong community. Their display will help reinforce the key principles of the lesson, and their shared observations will deepen their understanding of how to be responsible citizens.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Assessment

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Directions: Read each statement below and circle either the 👍 or 👎 icon to show whether the statement is true or false based on what you learned about Tocqueville's observations.

1. Tocqueville believed that religion helped people make good choices.




2. The Founding Fathers created rules to make sure people's voices were not heard.




3. Self-government means that people in towns make their own decisions.




4. Tocqueville saw that local governments helped people work together to take care of their communities.




5. In America, the majority always has too much power and makes all the rules.




6. Tocqueville thought that self-improvement and helping others in your community go hand in hand.




Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Assessment

7. Religion was not important for helping people understand freedom in America.

8. Tocqueville noticed that in America, people were treated equally and had the same rights.

9. In America, democracy works best when everyone gets to share their ideas, even the smaller group.

10. Tocqueville's ideas about democracy and self-government are still important today.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What surprised you about Tocqueville's observations?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. How do you think the things Tocqueville saw on his trip helped America stay free and strong?

_____

_____

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Assessment

3. What are some ways you can help your community, just like Tocqueville saw people do in America?

Answer Key: True/False Quiz

1. Tocqueville believed that religion helped people make good choices.
   - 👍 True
   - Tocqueville saw that religion, especially Christianity, helped guide people's choices, making them fair and kind.
2. The Founding Fathers created rules to make sure people's voices were not heard.
   - 👎 False
   - The Founding Fathers created rules to ensure everyone's voice was heard and that people had rights and freedoms.
3. Self-government means that people in towns make their own decisions.
   - 👍 True
   - Self-government means that communities make decisions together, like voting and choosing leaders.
4. Tocqueville saw that local governments helped people work together to take care of their communities.
   - 👍 True
   - Tocqueville noticed that people in towns worked together to solve problems and make decisions, making their communities stronger.
5. In America, the majority always has too much power and makes all the rules.
   - 👎 False
   - Tocqueville was concerned about the majority having too much power, but he saw that Americans worked to make sure everyone's voice was heard.
6. Tocqueville thought that self-improvement and helping others in your community go hand in hand.
   - 👍 True
   - Tocqueville believed that when people worked to improve themselves, they also helped improve their communities.
7. Religion was not important for helping people understand freedom in America.
   - 👎 False
   - Tocqueville saw that religion, especially Christianity, helped people understand freedom and guided them in making good choices.
8. Tocqueville noticed that in America, people were treated equally and had the same rights.
   - 👍 True
   - Tocqueville observed that many Americans believed in equality and that everyone should have the same rights, although he also noted the injustice of slavery.

Answer Key: True/False Quiz

9. In America, democracy works best when everyone gets to share their ideas, even the smaller group.
    - 👍 True
    - Tocqueville believed that everyone, even the smaller groups, should have a voice in democracy, which helps protect the rights of all people.
10. Tocqueville's ideas about democracy and self-government are still important today.
    - 👍 True
    - Tocqueville's observations remain relevant today, as they remind us about the importance of democracy, self-government, and working together to make our communities strong.

Reflection Questions:

1. What surprised you about Tocqueville's observations?
    - Answer Example: Students might be surprised to learn that Tocqueville saw how important local government and religion were in helping the community work together and stay strong. Some may be surprised that Tocqueville noticed that religion and democracy worked together well in America, even though that was not the case in his home country, France.
2. How do you think the things Tocqueville saw on his trip helped America stay free and strong?
    - Answer Example: Tocqueville noticed that self-government, where people in towns made their own decisions, helped make America strong because it allowed everyone to have a voice. People worked together to make decisions and took responsibility for their communities. Religion also helped guide people to make fair and kind choices, which helped protect freedom and fairness.
3. What are some ways you can help your community, just like Tocqueville saw people do in America?
    - Answer Example: Students may suggest helping their community by following rules, being kind to others, voting when they're older, attending local events, volunteering, helping their neighbors, or making decisions together to improve their school or community. They could also suggest showing responsibility by cleaning up or taking care of shared spaces.

Resources

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- http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/LojkoMiklos/Alexis-de-Tocqueville-Democracy-in-America.pdf.
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Images

Fourth of July



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U.S. Constitution



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Images

Alexis de Tocqueville



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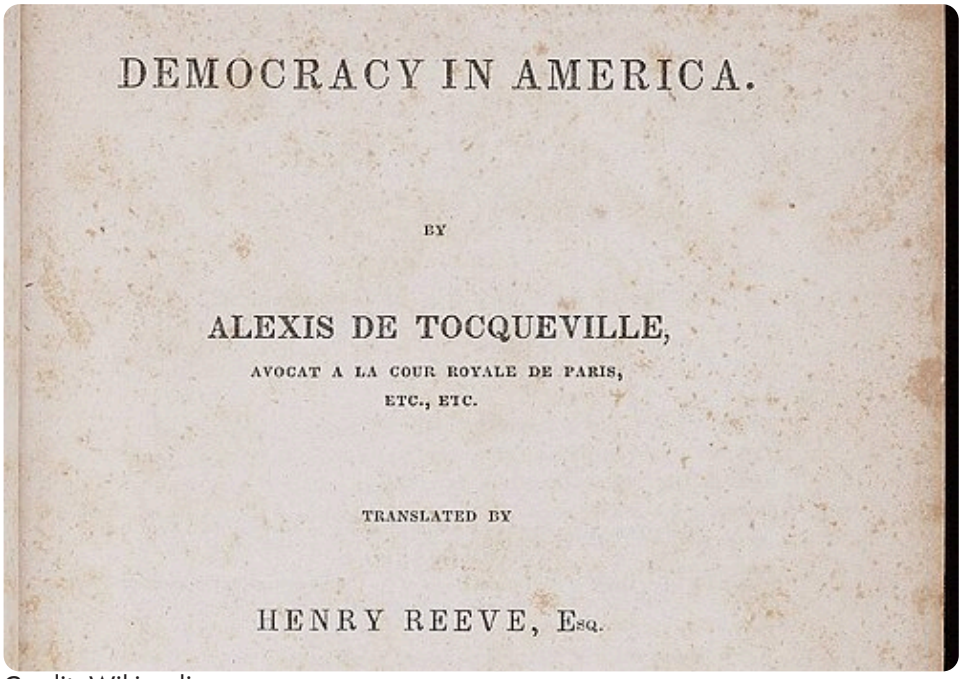
Monarchy



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Democracy in America



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Local Government



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Royal Charters



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Self-Improvement



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Emergency Services



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Second Great Awakening



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Community Helpers



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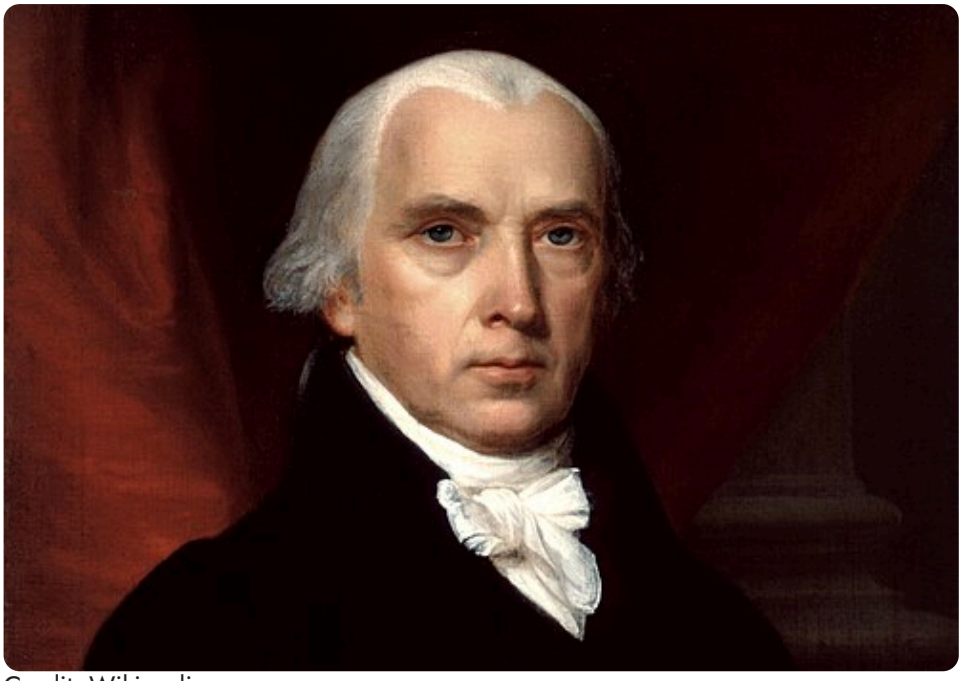
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George Washington



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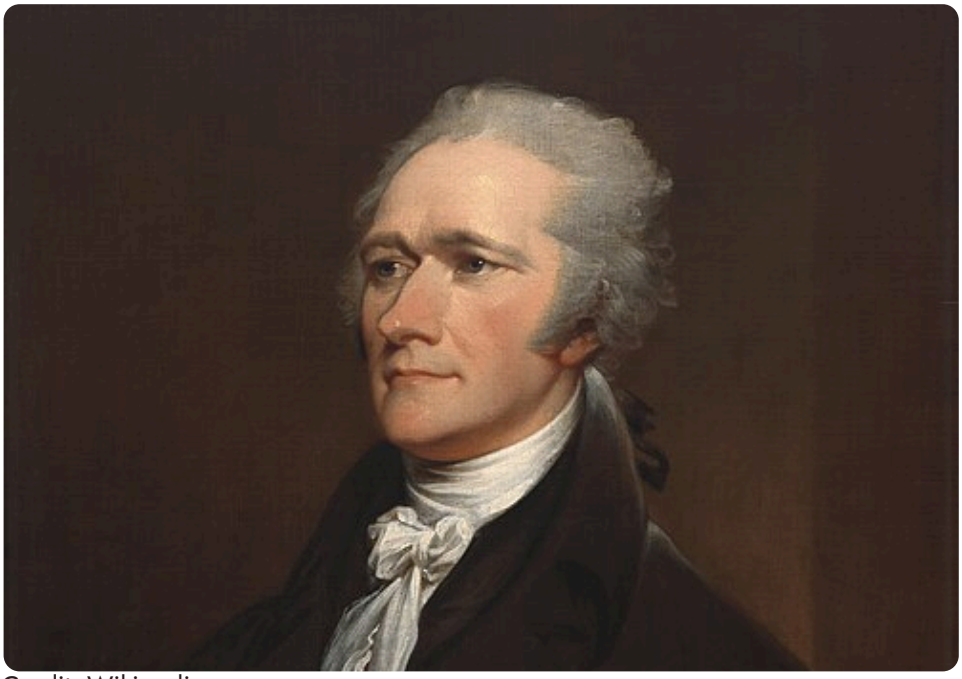
James Madison



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Alexander Hamilton



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Founding Fathers



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American Flag



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Notes