CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK RESOURCES

To view the wording of the law, please refer teachers in your district to http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/, which is the Arkansas General Assembly Web address to access state law.

The following resources will assist schools in meeting Act 682 of 2003. Schools may use ideas from this list of resources, or they may create their own method of meeting Act 682 of 2003.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/declaration join the signers.html Click on the NARA "link" listed above for numerous activities for students, including some of those listed below.

"Signing the Declaration of Independence"

Choose a pen and add your name to the Declaration of Independence alongside our Forefathers. (This interactive exhibit requires the Macromedia Flash Player. Instructions and a link are provided.)

Creating the Declaration

View the time line for the creation of the Declaration of Independence beginning with the Lee Resolution and ending on August 2, 1776, when most members of Congress signed the document.

The Signer's Gallery

Who was the oldest Signer of the Declaration of Independence? Which Signer was also a musician? Learn the answers to these and other questions, and get our fact sheet about the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution Patriotic Education Booklet and School Assembly Materials

http://nscar.org/patriotic education.htm

The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (N.S.C.A.R.) holds patriotic education as one of its objectives. This year's national project supports schools across the country by providing them with DVDs about Patrick Henry. It includes a biography of Patrick Henry, a timeline, and many helpful website links.

In addition, a script for a patriotic assembly for elementary, middle, and high schools is available. These materials are prepared by N.S.C.A.R. and are a public service that provides learning activities for use by any school or group. They help meet national and state standards of education on teaching the U.S. Constitution and patriotic values.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

http://www.gilderlehrman.org/

This Web site contains lessons, podcasts, and primary source documents. Teachers can access teaching modules on The Revolutionary War. The Constitution. The New Nation. Pre-Civil War Reform. Slavery, The Civil War, The 1920s, and more at http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/modules.php. Each curriculum module contains links to a reading overview, primary source documents, learning tools, visual aids, and resources.

The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)

http://www.vfw.org or

http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmty.levelc&cid=2467&cfid=2828661&cftoken=42988673

The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Web site contains Resources for Educators. Flag questions and answers, flag etiquette, flag and patriotic stories, flag disposal, and U.S. flag code are a few topics available for educators at the VFW link. The VFW publishes a flag booklet, "Ten Short Flag Stories," which can be requested by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Citizenship Education

Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64111. Quantities can be purchased through VFW Emblem and Supply.

Other Programs for Teachers and students offered by the VFW include:

1. Speakers in the Classroom -

VFW members speak to students about their military experiences and Ladies Auxiliary VFW members can talk about the importance of the home front.

2. Youth Development - Patriot's Pen -

This essay contest gives 7th and 8th graders across the country the opportunity to be recognized for expressing their views on democracy and to win U.S. Savings Bonds.

3. Youth Development - Voice of Democracy -

This program gives students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to write and record patriotic essays on audiotapes and to compete for over \$2 million in scholarships at the local, state, and national level.

4. National VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award -

Since 1999, this program has recognized thousands of classroom teachers for promoting citizenship education with their students. Each year one elementary, middle, and high school teacher are recognized in Washington, D.C., and both the teacher and his/her school receive \$1,000 and an award plaque. Entry deadline to local VFW Posts is November 1.

5. Echoes from the Wall -

A teaching curriculum about the Vietnam War was created with support by the VFW and was distributed to every middle and high school. For more information, call 202-393-0090 or visit www.teachvietnam.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The National Constitution Center

http://www.constitutioncenter.org (click on Explore the Constitution)

This section was created to help educators teach the U.S. Constitution and other civic-related topics to students of all ages. These lesson plans meet the Center for Civic Education's National Standards for Civics and Government and offer elementary grades K-4, middle grades 5-8, and high school grades 9-12 teachers a selection of classroom activities, readings, and Web resources. Each month this page will feature a new lesson plan highlighting recent Constitutional issues as well as historical events such as the Constitutional Convention.

Access the Interactive U.S. Constitution at http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/.

Print a copy of the U.S. Constitution for students to analyze in small groups by clicking on the following address http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/constitution.pdf.

The Constitution Center has other numerous resources available for educators and students.

AboutGovernment/The Dirkson Congressional Center

http://www.congresslink.org

This site contains numerous resources about our government.

The Bill of Rights Institute

http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/

This site contains many instructional materials that are free for use in the classroom. Teaching guides are available, as well as lesson plans and quick links for Constitution Day.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

http://www.archives.gov/ is the homepage link.

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/index.html contains numerous lesson plans by eras. Just select and click, then browse.

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/ contains Constitution Day specific materials.

100 Milestone Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service http://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?flash=true&page=milestone

We invite all Americans to participate in a series of events and programs to get us thinking, talking, and teaching about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy. At the heart of this initiative are 100 milestone documents of American history. These documents reflect our diversity and our unity, our past and our future, and mostly our commitment as a nation to continue to strive to "form a more perfect union." We want everyone—students, teachers, parents, and the general public—to read these milestone documents, consider their meaning, discuss them, and decide which are the most significant and why. This initiative creates a number of ways to do that through classroom activities, competitions, and votes.

Center for Civic Education

http://www.civiced.org/lesson-plans.html contains many Sample Lesson Plans.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Congress for Kids

http://www.congressforkids.net/

Learning about government doesn't have to be boring. Congress for Kids gives you access to interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help you learn about the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect you. Although designed for students in grades four through high school, other students. teachers, parents, and interested citizens will find helpful, engaging activities, too. Using appealing, full-color illustrations, and engaging activities, this site will extend your learning in the

basics about the American federal government. Uncle Sam is your guide through Congress for Kids. He will introduce you to a new skill or bit of knowledge, or review a skill you already have, or even test your knowledge.

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids

http://bensquide.gpo.gov/

This site provides learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and teachers. These resources will teach how our government works, the use of the primary source materials of GPO Access, and how one can use GPO Access to carry out their civic responsibilities. And, just as GPO Access provides locator services to U.S. Government sites. Ben's Guide provides a similar service to U.S. Government Web sites developed for kids.