
The Four Freedoms: Freedom to Worship

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About the Book

During Franklin Delano Roosevelt's four terms of office as President of the United States, he spoke about four universal freedoms, including the freedom to worship. Religious freedom is rooted in the history of the U.S. From the very beginning, Americans have fought for this right. *Freedom to Worship* explores the challenges around the world that come with choosing how, when, where, or whether to worship.

Before Reading

Write the following words on the board: *church, synagogue, temple, cathedral, meeting house, kingdom hall, mosque, monastery*. Discuss how these are all places of worship. Have students add any others that they can think of. If possible, share pictures or identify those in your community. If not mentioned, note that any quiet place can serve as a place of worship.

During-Reading Discussion

1. After reading chapter one, ask: *For hundreds of years, leaders, nations, and individuals have fought over religion. Why do you think this happens?* Discuss how the right to worship as one pleases continues to motivate people to leave behind their country, friends, even their family, to immigrate to the United States.
2. After reading chapter two, ask: *Think about the examples of persecution in this chapter. Which is most surprising to you?* Discuss any examples of continued persecution in the news. Then ask: *What can you do about persecution?* Brainstorm a list of key terms, such as *tolerance, respect, fairness*, etc.
3. After reading chapter three, ask: *What do you think about the treatment of the Dalai Lama?* Discuss how people often fear someone with a different point of view, especially if that person is a powerful leader.
4. Ask: *Think about the pictures in the book of people in prayer or worship. What would it be like if the government kept track of your worship activities? Would you be willing to risk everything you have to worship as you please? Why or why not?*
5. Ask: *In the United States, you have the right to choose your religion. You also have the right to change religions or not to worship at all. Why is the right to change or not worship as important as the right to choose?*

After-Reading Activities

Places of Worship

People enjoy visiting beautiful or unusual places of worship when traveling. Take a virtual field trip to a variety of famous buildings, such as the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Notre Dame in Paris, the Lotus Temple in New Delhi. See the following web site for many unusual places of worship:
www.boredpanda.com/50-most-extraordinary-churches-of-the-world/. Students may also want to bring in photographs of places they have visited.

World Religions Map

Using a world map and small sticky notes, annotate the primary religions for a variety of countries, ensuring that the continents are all represented. Have students use the term "world religion map" in an internet image or web search to find more information. This web search also provides an opportunity to compare information sources and discuss possible differences in reporting.

Common Core State Standards

ELA- Reading Informational Text:
RI.4.1; RI.4.2; RI.4.3; RI.4.4; RI.4.5;
RI.4.7; RI.4.8