

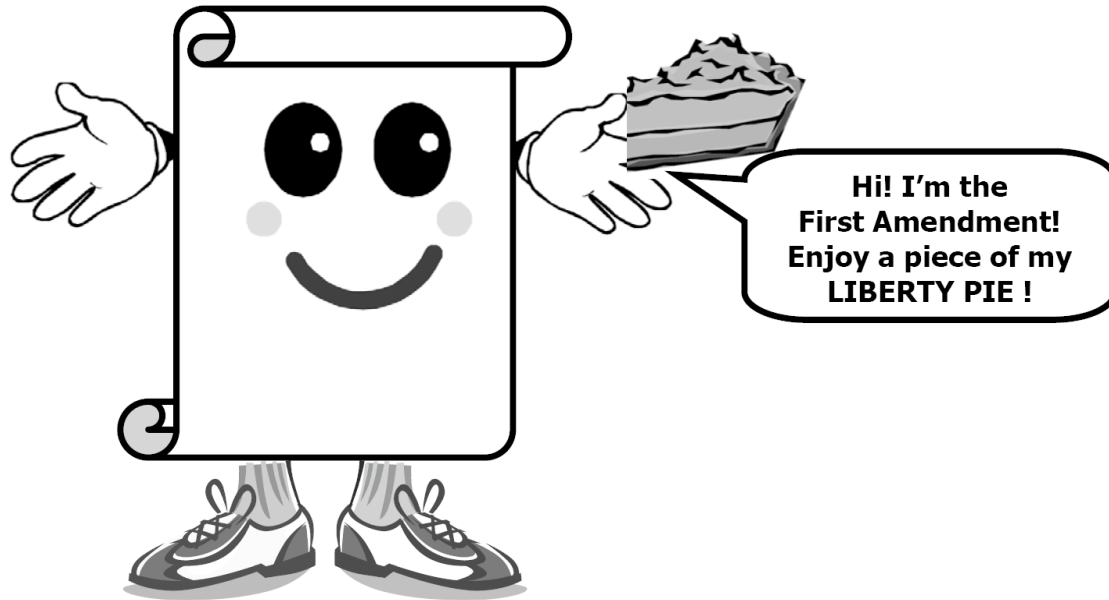
Have a Taste of Liberty Pie

Purpose:

Students are required to identify the basic components and liberties found in the First Amendment by examining the origin and role of rights in a democratic society, and the purpose of a constitution in a republic.

Procedures:

1. Ask students to list all the rights they have in the classroom. These might include such items as the right to discuss, the right to work together, the right to play at recess, the right to bring their lunch or purchase lunch, etc. Post this list in the room. Ask students where these rights came from? Were they agreed upon by the teacher and students? Were they granted by the school principal? Were they given by their parents?
2. Inform students that rights in our country came about in a similar way. Hold up a copy of the U.S. Constitution and tell students that this is our basic plan or rules for organizing our government and electing our leaders. Discuss the concepts of a democracy - that power to make laws come from the people who vote for representatives to speak for us. This makes the United States a republic - a type of democracy that gives power to elected leaders to represent our wishes.
3. Remind students that the Constitution did not have a list of rights originally, but that many people thought it should. In fact, some people would not vote to approve the Constitution until a specific list of rights was added to it. Inform students that this list was created in the first ten amendments to the Constitution, called the Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment's freedoms of expression.
4. Give students a copy of the First Amendment's Autobiography reading. Each time the reading mentions a right, ask students to raise their hand. Make a list of the five rights mentioned in the reading.
5. Divide the class into groups of five students. Give each group a blank Liberty Pie. Students will cut apart the five pieces of the pie. On each piece, individual members of the group will independently illustrate examples of one of the five liberties listed in the First Amendment: speech, press, assembly, petition, and religious expression.
6. Ask students to re-assemble the pieces of their pie by taping them together. Allow time for groups to voluntarily share their illustrations with the class.
7. Extension: Ask students to carefully observe activities on their way home from school and during time at home. Identify and record evidence of First Amendment rights being used in the community and their homes. Upon returning to school, develop a classroom list of examples of First Amendment freedoms they observed.



Yes, It's me! The First Amendment to our Constitution!
An amendment is a change. So my name means "first change."
But my friends call me "Number One".

I was the first change made to the constitution, proposed in 1789,
by a man named James Madison.

I make people an offer they can't resist. I offer you freedoms found in my homemade
"Liberty Pie". (A "liberty" is a freedom that all people can enjoy in the United States.)
You can enjoy any one of my five liberties, or you can even eat the whole pie!

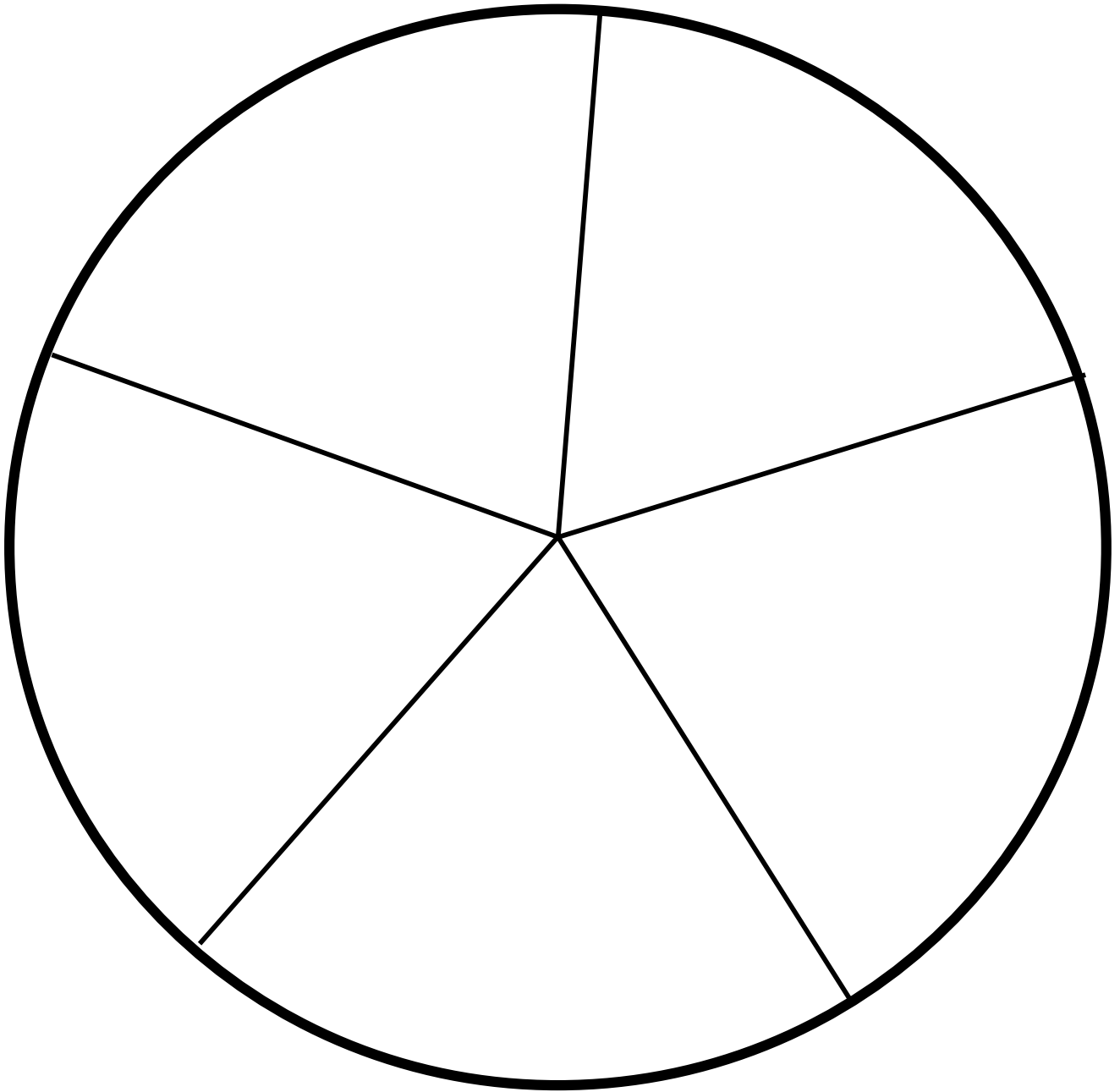
My favorite piece of Liberty Pie is freedom of speech. I love to talk!
And I have good ideas that people should hear!

Do you ever read a newspaper? Or watch news on television? Or read a good book?
Those freedoms are because of me!

Do you like to get together with your friends and talk or play? Do you ever try to talk
to people and get them to do something you want? Those are more of my freedoms-
the freedom of assembly and the freedom of petition.

Do you go to worship in a church, or a temple, or a mosque? That's me again!
I promise to make sure that you can worship anywhere you wish in any way you want.
That's a piece of Liberty Pie that I call freedom of religion!

I'm getting old, you know...I was born in 1791. But I still feel young because people still enjoy
my Liberty Pie and the rights I protect!



First Amendment Freedom Pie

*In each piece of pie, illustrate the five freedoms given to all American citizens in the First Amendment:
Speech, Press, Assembly, Petition, and Religion.*