



## Best Practices Guide

### Big Picture Use Cases

- ▶ whole class
- ▶ small groups
- ▶ suggested home reading
- ▶ independent reading time

## How should I use FreedomFlix in my classroom?

### ▶ Introduce students to FreedomFlix in a whole-class setting.

- Use a whiteboard or projector. Show students how to open a browser to find FreedomFlix or how to locate your FreedomFlix bookmark.
- Point out the categories displayed at the top of the home screen. Talk about what kinds of topics students might find within each category.
- Demonstrate how to browse the categories and select a unit. Once in a unit, show how to access the elements that accompany the e-books. These include a video, related content (Explore More), links to related Web sites, a project idea, discussion questions, and a 10-question multiple-choice quiz.
- Preview the video, explaining to students that it is an introduction to the topic.
- Open the e-book, showing the various ways to navigate (turning the pages, using the hot-linked table of contents, or entering a term in the search box) and how to mouse over highlighted words to see their definitions and hear them read aloud. Demonstrate how to activate the audio for text, sidebars, and captions. Show students how to look for pop-up features (indicated by a red star) placed throughout the e-book to expand on the text.
- When finished, show how to browse more titles in the unit's category, and how to get back to the main page.
- Choose a student from the class to repeat/model the process.



Students can access FreedomFlix independently at school and at home.

### ▶ Mark the corresponding print Cornerstones of Freedom and Ancient World books in your classroom library and your school library as books available in FreedomFlix.

- Download the FreedomFlix title list.
- Mark the corresponding Cornerstones of Freedom books in your classroom library and school library with a special label or sticker.
- Encourage students to read the e-book on FreedomFlix and then read it again with your print copy.



Students learn to transition easily between print and digital media.

### ▶ Use FreedomFlix with the whole class to introduce the topic.

- Show the video to the class. When finished, ask students to recount the video in their own words, making sure they state the main ideas. Discuss with students what they already know about the topic. Then have students list at least five more things they think they will learn when they read the e-book.
- Preview the list of vocabulary words and their definitions in the e-book. Pronounce each word and help students repeat them. Have students read and discuss each definition and use each word in a sentence.
- Introduce the Guiding Questions (What Do You Think) and ask students to think about them as they read the e-book. Revisit the questions as a class after reading is completed.



Students build background knowledge and key vocabulary around a topic.

### ▶ Use FreedomFlix for small-group activities based on the e-book and related materials.

- Assign students an e-book on FreedomFlix to read as a class or individually.
- Divide students into small groups to dive deeper into an element from the unit. For example, point them to one of the related Web sites; have them read a related work of literature from the Explore More collection; or ask them to examine a primary-source text, video, or audio from the e-book pop-up features. Have each group discuss and prepare a brief review to present to the class.
- Regroup as a class to share learning.



Students deepen their understanding of a topic through exploration of authentic materials and a range of text types.

### ▶ Use FreedomFlix in a flipped classroom.

- Have students read an e-book and explore its related materials at home.
- Use class time to facilitate discussions and engage students in activities related to the topic they have explored independently.



Students learn at their own pace, then confirm understanding through collaborative, teacher-supported classroom activities.

### ▶ Use FreedomFlix as a resource for Genius Hour/ 20% Time.

- Encourage students to choose a topic or related resource from FreedomFlix that excites their interest. For inspiration, point them to the first-hand accounts, dramatic readings, primary-source video and audio, and other elements that bring history to life.
- Have them craft an inquiry question to define and communicate their project. Use the FreedomFlix essential questions as models for open-ended questions.
- Have students use the resources in FreedomFlix as a springboard to research, create, and present their project.



Students have opportunities to pursue their interests, exercise creativity and critical thinking, and direct their own learning.

### ▶ Use FreedomFlix units that correlate to the unit you are teaching and to make cross-curricular connections.

- Use FreedomFlix content to supplement your social studies curriculum or to introduce a new social studies unit.
- Use the pop-up features within the e-book to expose students to primary-source audio and video, dramatic readings and facsimiles of historic documents, and other compelling resources.
- Use the Explore More content to encourage related reading across a variety of text types—reference articles, literature, current events stories, and primary-source texts.
- Use the related Web sites for each unit to extend and enrich your lessons. (Web sites are found in the menu for each unit and are also listed alphabetically under Resources.)



Students improve literacy skills and build content-area knowledge.



## Best Practices Guide

### Quick Access Tip



Bookmark FreedomFlix on your school computers or mobile devices.



Create and print a QR code for FreedomFlix and post it in your classroom so that students with mobile devices have easy access.

## How are other teachers using FreedomFlix?

*“It’s easy to adapt the lesson plans to fit my class schedule and teaching goals.”*

- Use the Show What You Know quiz that accompanies each unit to gauge student comprehension.
- Use the Essential Question displayed on the home page of each unit to inspire an inquiry path.
- Assign the unit project; allow wrap-up time in class for students to share their work.
- Ask students to respond to the writing prompts, four open-ended questions that accompany each unit. Use the rubrics provided to evaluate student responses.



*“The rubrics help me assess my students’ higher-order thinking.”*

- Use the whiteboard activities for hands-on learning and review.
- Refer to each unit’s lesson plan for specific classroom activities and other tips.



*“It’s easy to adapt the lesson plans to fit my class schedule and teaching goals.”*

## How can my students use FreedomFlix at home?



**Download** the FreedomFlix Parent Letter explaining the benefits of FreedomFlix and how to access it from home. Letters are located under the Downloadables link on the Resources page.



**Copy** the letter and send it home with students or distribute it at open houses or parent-teacher conferences.



**Customize** the letter by adding your school’s username and password and your name.

## How can my school get more instruction support for FreedomFlix?



Attend one of the quarterly online webinars that provide professional development and further tips on how to use FreedomFlix in your classroom or library.

Visit [scholastic.com/digital](https://www.scholastic.com/digital) and click on the training tab to register for an upcoming webinar.