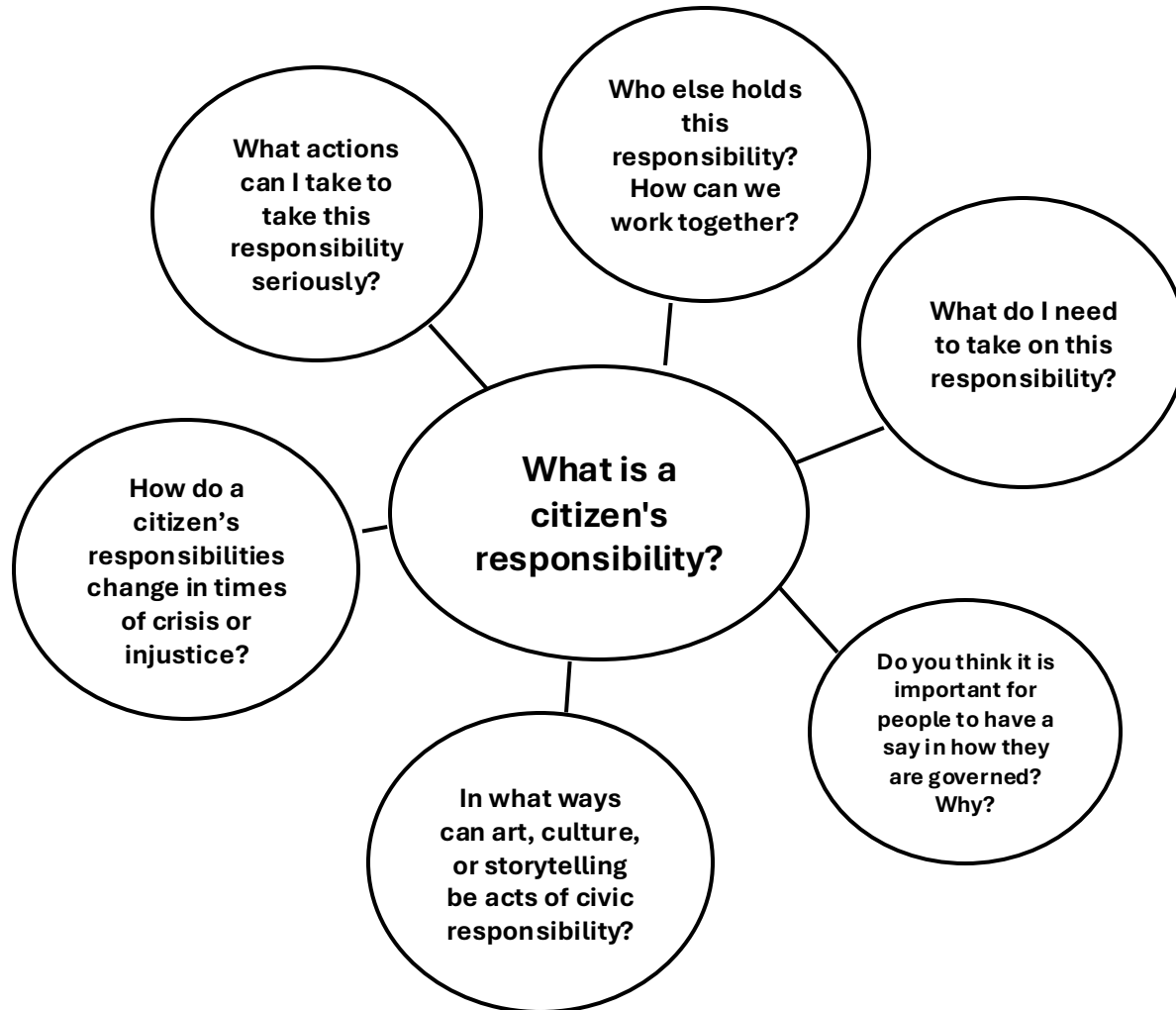


What is a Citizen's Responsibility?

Every object you see in our America 250 galleries were created because of the responsibility felt by Americans throughout the existence of the nation.

Use the following thought map to help you answer the complex questions: *What is an American's Responsibility?* Make your own word map and answer these questions for yourself.



Welcome All Illinois Access Students to America 250 at Peoria Riverfront Museum!

AMERICA



What is America 250?

America 250's mission is to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marking America's Semiquincentennial. Americans around the nation will be encouraged to reflect on the past, strengthen the appreciation of country, and renew the commitment to the ideals of democracy through programs that educate, engage, and unite the nation. America 250 will foster shared experiences that spark imagination, showcase the rich tapestry of our American stories, inspire service in our communities, honor the enduring strength, and celebrate the resilience of the United States of America.

What are you excited to learn about?

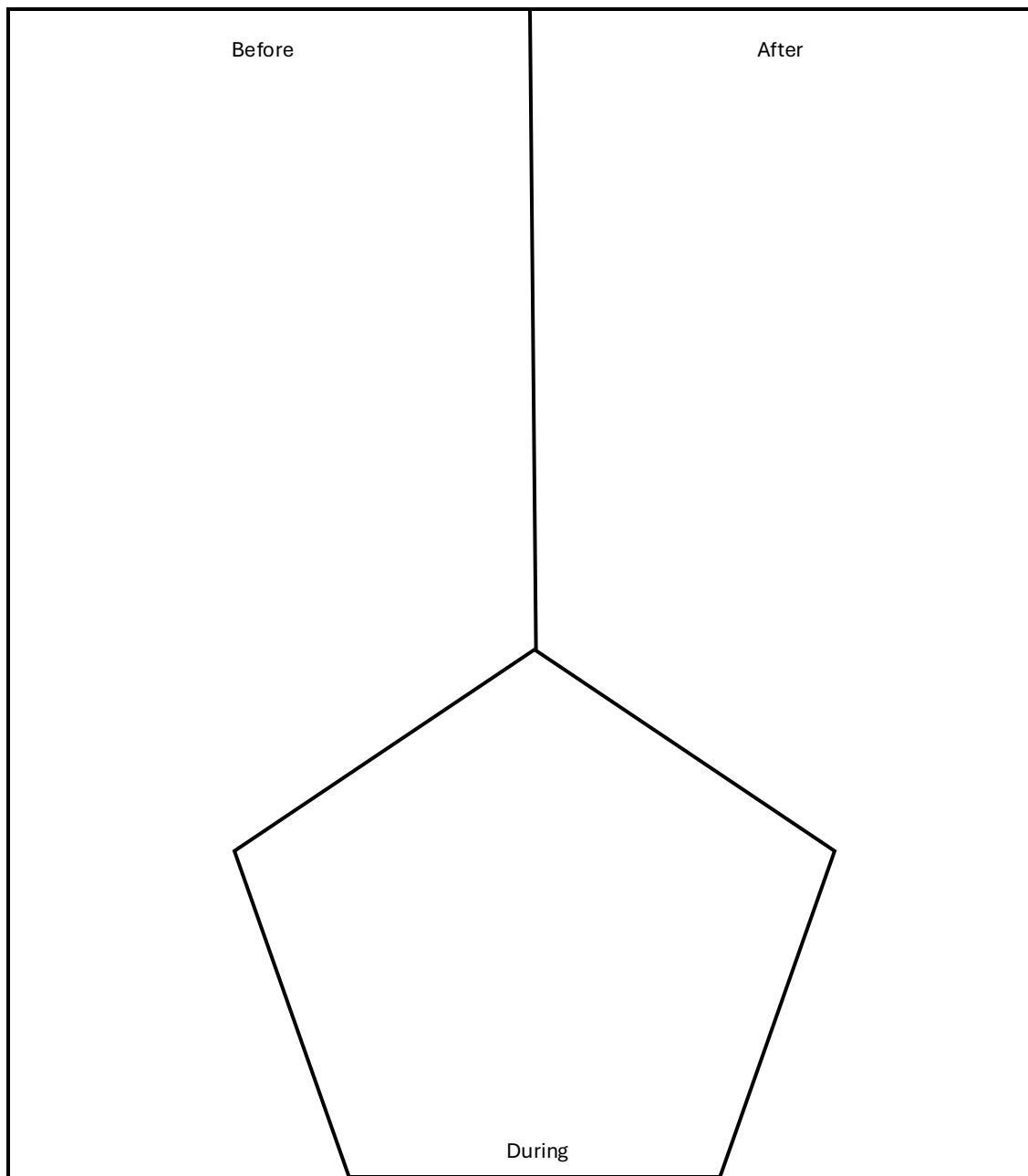
During your visit today, you will experience...

Promise of Liberty, an exhibition of more than 50 premium rare American documents. These range from a 1776 edition of the Declaration of Independence, a first printing of the Constitution, Emancipation Proclamation, and Martin Luther King's 1963 "I have a dream" speech. This exhibition encourages you to examine America's successes, failures, aspirations, and possibilities. It challenges you to construct a better democracy and a stronger society with your own transformative solutions for today's challenges.

You will also get the opportunity to see **Joyful Resistance**. This exhibition is a celebration of the enduring spirit, creativity, and agency of Black people across time and space, this exhibition honors the vibrant tapestry of Black life, where art becomes both a refuge and a rallying cry.

You may have the opportunity to interact with one or many of our Gallery Guides when you visit Peoria Riverfront Museum. For an in-gallery experience, fill in the following activities labeled "before" prior to visiting, the sections labeled "after" once you are finished with your visit, and leave the sections "during" blank. Have a discussion

What does it mean to be a Citizen?



Three Protected Freedoms

As a class, determine three sections of the room that a group of students could fit in. Educator, assign numbers 1-3 to the designated spaces. Now decide for yourself which of the following is the most important idea to protect.

1. I am allowed to exist in any space that will not harm me or others.
2. I am protected to make my own decisions.
3. I can explore meaning and purpose in my life.

Chose which is most important to you; recognizing that they can all be important, but you must choose one. Find the space corresponding to the number you chose. When you are prompted, go to that area. Discuss with the others at your number: Why did you chose this? What makes this more important than the others?

Let's explore what America's Founding Fathers thought to be the rights of Americans. Have you heard the phrase, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" before?

What do you think those words really mean? Below, you'll find some quick definitions of the three promised rights. Notice; are they similar to the previously stated group prompts?

Life- The fundamental right to exist and live free from threats to one's being, encompassing bodily integrity and freedom from harm.

Liberty- The freedom to live as one chooses without harming others, free from oppression.

Pursuit of Happiness- The right to explore what happy living means for oneself, and to experience that happiness.

When you visit Peoria Riverfront Museum, try to find an object in the galleries that connects to each of these ideas. Explain to a Gallery Guide on duty your connections, and they will give you your America 250 expert stamp!

