

The Vermont movie

FREEDOM & UNITY

June, 2011

Dear Vermont educators,

Interested in using local resources to teach? Exploring compelling ways to meet state standards? Challenged to be creative within a tight school budget? Welcome to **Freedom & Unity: The Vermont Movie** and **The Freedom & Unity Classroom Kit**.

The Vermont Movie explores Vermont's independent spirit over the centuries as captured by over two dozen individual filmmakers around the state. It's the first Vermont documentary to examine the values and themes, over history to the present day, that define our state and its people. It will premiere in Vermont and tour the state starting at the end of 2011.

A Classroom Kit for grades 4-12 will be available for fall, 2011.

It includes a DVD with twelve 15 to 25 minute film segments on Vermont history and culture, along with a study guide. The guide includes separate Before and After Viewing sections and standards-based activities for each film segment. The activities are broken down by grade level: grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Gary Miller, a social studies curriculum developer for 20 years, authored the guide.

Lesson plans include The Abenakis, Colonial Settlement, A Fugitive Slave Memoir, Inventors & Innovation, Marble, Town Meetings, Family Farms, Change The World Kids, and Recent Immigrants & Refugees.

The Freedom & Unity Classroom Kit can be ordered now. The study guide will be mailed immediately, and the DVD with all twelve film segments will be mailed in August. The cost for both the guide and DVD is \$35. One order includes a study guide for all grade levels 4 - 12 and one DVD with all 12 of the film segments. If cost prohibits you from ordering, please contact us about our "scholarship fund."

The Freedom & Unity Classroom Kit will inspire your students to explore our state's history, culture, and values and to learn how Vermonters have contributed to the fabric of their communities and the world. The DVD, study guide, and Web site (www.thevermontmovie.com) encourage students to make contributions of their own by participating in real-world projects. Lesson plans in PDF format are available for download from our Web site's educators page.

For more information, email schools@thevermontmovie.com or call Nat Winthrop (802-223-6933).

Best wishes, Gary Miller, Educational Content Developer and Nat Winthrop and Nora Jacobson, Producers

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Vermont Historical Society