

LESSON PLAN

A Time to Kill?

FOUNDATION: *UNIT V. International Human Rights in the Domestic US Context*

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LENGTH	NEBRASKA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS	McREL NATIONAL STANDARDS
1 day	Star: 12.1.13, 12.3.9 General: 12.1.14	Civics: 2.1, 11.1 History: 2.4, 2.11, 2.13

OBJECTIVE	TERMS
Students will understand the arguments used to justify when it is right to kill, if ever. From these arguments students will debate the right of revolution.	Civil Disobedience Nonviolent Protest Vigilante Ruby Ridge David Koresh Branch Davidians Justice

MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video clip from the movie, <i>A TIME TO KILL</i> (1996) Plot Summary http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0117913/plotsummary• Quotes on Civil Disobedience (attached)• Declaration of Independence http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html http://www.unl.edu/HumanR/teach/00/0000/media/DeclarationOfIndependence.pdf• Chalk or marker board• Additional websites: Oklahoma City Bombing Trial http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveightrial.html Department of Justice Report on Ruby Ridge, Idaho http://www.byington.org/Carl/ruby/ruby1.htm Washington Post: The Waco Siege http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/sidebars/waco_background.htm BBC Country Profile: Rwanda http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1070265.stm

- I. Show closing argument from the video. *A TIME TO KILL*.
- II. Discuss background of the case with class (see above Plot Summary website).
- III. Handout quotes on Thoreau's *CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE*. Discuss what students feel each quote is saying. Ask students when they feel people should have the right to revolt (make a list on the board).
- IV. Ask students if the right to revolution justifies killing those who oppose you? What ways are there for ones to revolt without bloodshed? Discuss issues like Timothy McVeigh, Ruby Ridge, Waco, Rwanda 1999, etc.

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- V. Closure:** Hand out copy of Declaration of Independence. Discuss how the right to revolution could lead to violation of human rights and if the Declaration of Independence in any way protects individual human rights.

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Quotes about Thoreau's CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

<http://eserver.org/thoreau/wrkslnks.html>

Can Something "Wrong" Really Be Something "Right"?

"Thoreau's act of Civil Disobedience did not clog any government wheels. . . . Instead it echoed throughout the world as a way for people to affect change in something that they did not think was right."

Rebecca Anne Kroll

Transcendental Legacy: Political Reform

"It would be a mistake to think that he has only provided us with the right weapons to fight injustice; more than that, he has provided us with the right spirit in which this fight should be fought. . . ."

Antonio Casado da Rocha

<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/roots/legacy/imagesforreform.html>

Philosophy of Law: Civil Disobedience

"A.J. Muste argued that to use legal channels to fight unjust laws is to participate in an evil machine."

Peter Suber

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/writing/civ-dis.htm>

History of Mass Nonviolent Action

"The strength of nonviolence comes from our willingness to take personal risk without threatening other people."

from ACT UP

<http://www.actupny.org/documents/CDdocuments/HistoryNV.html>