

 **The Rule of Law**

MODULE ORGANIZER

Compelling Question

What does it mean to live under the rule of law?

Staging the Question

What are laws?

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL

PROMPTS

TRANSITIONAL PROMPT

Book of General Laws and Liberties Concerning the Inhabitants of the Massachusetts 1648

- A: What do these laws say?
- B: What groups in society are impacted by these laws?
- C: What do these laws tells us about people in this society?

Are some laws more important than others?

Constitution 1787

- A: What does this document say?
- B: How do these laws compare with the Laws and Liberties of MA?
- C: Why did people need to write this document?

How do laws change over time?

Proposed Bill of Rights 1790

Ratified Bill of Rights December 15, 1791

- A: What do these documents say?
- B: Compare these draft articles to the ones ratified as the Bill of Rights. What is different?
- C: To whom do these laws apply?

How are the Constitution and Bill of Rights relevant today?

"Mega Carta"

- A: What does this article say?
- B: What are some other things not currently governed by law?
- C: What challenges do modern people face in expanding laws?

What problems could arise if some areas of society are not governed by laws?

SUMMATIVE ARGUMENT

Based on your close reading of the primary source materials, provide an argument about what it means to live under the rule of law.



EXTENDED LEARNING:

College and Career Readiness: Engaging the Professional Perspective

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL

PROMPTS

***13th century draft of
Magna Carta***

(HM 25781 f.1)

Skills:

What skills do you need to be able to decipher this material?

What is the value of possessing those skills?

(What else could these skills help you do?)

Physical Place:

Where can you find materials like these?

How does one work with these types of materials?

Subject Knowledge:

What do you need to know to make sense of the society that created this document?

Professions:

What kinds of professions would be open to someone who had these skills?