



PAUL SANCYA / AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

America... by the people

“The people...are the only sure reliance for the
preservation of our liberty.”

—*Thomas Jefferson, 1787*

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America ... by the people

LINKING PAST AND PRESENT

*Image: The American flag flies at half staff as the crowd holds paper flags at a moment of silence prior to a football game.
Saturday, September 22, 2001 • Notre Dame Stadium,
South Bend, Indiana*

The American Revolution began the world's most important experiment in democracy. Could a large, diverse republic whose government derived its power from the consent of the governed actually endure?

History has demonstrated that the answer to that question is a resounding yes. Over the past two centuries, Americans have expanded the definition of citizenship to include all human beings, without regard to race, gender, religion, or ethnicity. The challenges of war, economic depression, and social upheaval have strengthened our resolve as a nation and deepened our commitment to democracy. Now another crisis again brings American citizens together, determined to demonstrate that in the unity of the people lies the surest protection of individual rights.

—Andrew Cayton, co-author, *America: Pathways to the Present*

These Pearson Education Web sites provide instructional context to the events surrounding September 11th for teachers who are developing related lesson plans.
phschool.com/social_studies/special_report/index.html

pearsonlearning.com
teachervision.com



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OBJECTIVES

- Summarize the main idea of Thomas Jefferson's statement and relate it to today.
- Analyze the role of the people in preserving liberty.

LESSON STRATEGY

Among the nation's founders, Thomas Jefferson was one of the strongest proponents of the importance of the people in preserving liberty. He wrote the words quoted on the poster in a letter to James Madison in 1787. Have students notice the details in the poster and read the quotation from Jefferson. Ask them to re-state Jefferson's statement in their own words. Then have them name ways in which the people can help to preserve our liberty.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION

What might be the role of education in preserving liberty?

ACTIVITY

Writing an Essay Have students write a short essay or design a poster illustrating the importance of the people in preserving liberty.