

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/03/freedom_of_information_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated every year on March 16. This is the day on which the 4th United States President James Madison was born. He was behind America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open and honest with its people. James Madison died in 1836 and it took 130 years following his death for the Freedom of Information Act to pass into law in 1966. The Act changed the way the people had access to government information from a need to know basis to a right to know basis. It meant government became more transparent and less corrupt. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.

What information is it exactly that people should have free access to? Freedom of information is many things. It is the accessibility of information held by governments. This is never total freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some privacy and secrecy was necessary to protect national interests. There is also the protection of the right to freedom of expression with regards to the Internet and information technology. This is often called digital rights. These are so new there are many issues that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also concerns censorship on the Web, another minefield for legislators to deal with. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more important to be aware of this day.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. celebrated every | a. and less corrupt |
| 2. encourages government to be open | b. year on March 16 |
| 3. it took 130 years | c. a resolution |
| 4. the way the people had access to | d. following his death |
| 5. government became more transparent | e. and honest with its people |
| 6. Ronald Reagan signed | f. government information |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Freedom of information is | a. people power |
| 2. privacy and secrecy was necessary to | b. many things |
| 3. the right to freedom | c. aware of this day |
| 4. many issues that are difficult | d. protect national interests |
| 5. an age where information gives | e. to resolve |
| 6. it is more and more important to be | f. of expression |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated _____ March 16. This is the day on which the 4th United States President James Madison was born. _____ America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open and honest with its people. James Madison died in 1836 and it took 130 years _____ for the Freedom of Information Act to pass into law in 1966. The Act changed the way the _____ to government information from a need to know _____ to know basis. It meant government became more transparent _____. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.

What information _____ people should have free access to? Freedom of information is many things. It is the accessibility of information held by governments. _____ freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some privacy and secrecy was necessary to protect national interests. There is also the protection of the right to _____ with regards to the Internet and information technology. This is often called digital rights. These _____ are many issues that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also concerns censorship on the Web, another minefield for legislators _____. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more important to be _____.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated every year on March 16. This is the day on _____ the 4th United States President James Madison was born. He was _____ America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open and _____ with its people. James Madison died in 1836 and it took 130 years following his death for the Freedom of Information Act to _____ into law in 1966. The Act changed the way the _____ had access to government information from a need to know _____ to a right to know basis. It meant government became more transparent and _____ corrupt. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan _____ a resolution that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.

basis
behind
signed
pass
which
less
people
honest

What information is it exactly that people should have _____ access to? Freedom of information is many _____. It is the accessibility of information held by governments. This is never _____ freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some privacy and secrecy was necessary to _____ national interests. There is also the protection of the right to freedom of expression with regards to the Internet and information technology. This is often called _____ rights. These are so new there are many issues that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also _____ censorship on the Web, another minefield for legislators to _____ with. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more important to be _____ of this day.

digital
aware
protect
things
deal
free
concerns
total

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Freedom of Information Day is *celebration / celebrated* every year on March 16. This is the day on *which / when* the 4th United States President James Madison was born. He was *behind / late* America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open and *honesty / honest* with its people. James Madison died in 1836 and it took 130 years *following / follow* his death for the Freedom of Information Act to pass into law in 1966. The Act changed the way the people had access to government information from a *need / needy* to know basis to a right to know basis. It meant government became more transparent and less *corruption / corrupt*. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a *resolution / revolution* that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.

What information is it *exactly / exact* that people should have free access to? Freedom of information is many *thing / things*. It is the accessibility of information held by governments. This is never total freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some *private / privacy* and secrecy was necessary to protect national *interest / interests*. There is also the protection of the right to freedom of expression *with / by* regards to the Internet and information technology. This is often called *digital / digit* rights. These are so new there are many issues that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also concerns censorship on the Web, another minefield for legislators to deal *for / with*. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more important to be *aware / awareness* of this day.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Freedom of Information Day is (1) _____ every year on March 16. This is the day on which the 4th United States President James Madison was born. He was (2) _____ America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open and honest with its people. James Madison (3) _____ in 1836 and it took 130 years following his death for the Freedom of Information Act to pass (4) _____ law in 1966. The Act changed the way the people had access to government information from a need to know basis to a (5) _____ to know basis. It meant government became more transparent and less corrupt. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan (6) _____ a resolution that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.

What information is it (7) _____ that people should have free access to? Freedom of information is many things. It is the accessibility of information held by governments. This is never (8) _____ freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some privacy and secrecy was necessary to protect national interests. There is also the protection of the right to freedom (9) _____ expression with regards to the Internet and information technology. This is often called digital rights. These are so new there are many (10) _____ that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also concerns censorship on the Web, another minefield for legislators to (11) _____ with. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more (12) _____ to be aware of this day.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) celebration | (b) celebrated | (c) celebrated | (d) celebrates |
| 2. | (a) behind | (b) late | (c) rear | (d) follow |
| 3. | (a) death | (b) die | (c) died | (d) dead |
| 4. | (a) onto | (b) into | (c) so to | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) rights | (b) write | (c) rite | (d) right |
| 6. | (a) singed | (b) signed | (c) signs | (d) signing |
| 7. | (a) exactly | (b) exact | (c) exacts | (d) exacted |
| 8. | (a) totally | (b) total | (c) totals | (d) totaled |
| 9. | (a) at | (b) so | (c) on | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) issue | (b) issued | (c) issues | (d) issuing |
| 11. | (a) deal | (b) dealt | (c) dealer | (d) deals |
| 12. | (a) importance | (b) importantly | (c) imported | (d) important |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. eaecbtrdl every year
2. gfloiwonl his death
3. people had scsace to government
4. a need to know siasb
5. less rpcuotr
6. Ronald Reagan sdnieg a resolution

Paragraph 2

7. many tsihgn
8. iltaonan interests
9. freedom of sspenrxioe
10. difficult to olevrse
11. information gives people rwope
12. be waare of this day

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () issues that are difficult to resolve. Freedom of information also concerns censorship on the Web, another minefield for
- () governments. This is never total freedom. Ronald Reagan said that some privacy and secrecy was necessary to
- () more transparent and less corrupt. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed a
- () legislators to deal with. In an age where information gives people power, it is more and more important to be aware of this day.
- () Internet and information technology. This is often called digital rights. These are so new there are many
- () Freedom of Information Act to pass into law in 1966. The Act changed the way the people had access to
- () government information from a need to know basis to a right to know basis. It meant government became
- () have free access to? Freedom of information is many things. It is the accessibility of information held by
- () and honest with its people. James Madison died in 1836 and it took 130 years following his death for the
- () protect national interests. There is also the protection of the right to freedom of expression with regards to the
- (**1**) Freedom of Information Day is celebrated every year on March 16. This is the day on which the 4th United States
- () President James Madison was born. He was behind America's Bill of Rights, which encourages government to be open
- () resolution that made March 16 Freedom of Information Day.
- () What information is it exactly that people should

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Freedom of Information Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Freedom of Information Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Freedom of Information Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Freedom of Information Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.