Rights "Then and Now"

Summary
Students will compare and contrast the rights of individuals and groups based on social class today and during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

**Essential Questions:** Should your rights as a citizen be based on birth? Should these rights be based on the job you have? What should your rights be based on?

**Main Core Tie**
Social Studies - 6th Grade
**Standard 2 Objective 3**

**Time Frame**
3 class periods of 45 minutes each

**Group Size**
Small Groups

**Life Skills**
Thinking & Reasoning, Character, Systems Thinking

**Background for Teachers**
Knowledge of the social levels of the feudal system.
Knowledge of the social classes during the Renaissance.
The main idea of social classes currently in the U.S.

**Student Prior Knowledge**
Ability to read a diagram
Ability to think critically
Ability to compare and contrast
Answer the question: What are 'rights'?
Answer the question: What is 'social class'?

**Intended Learning Outcomes**
Students will discover rights of various groups of people in different time periods.

**Instructional Procedures**
Have students brainstorm what they think the social classes of the United States are.
Identify the 'classes' in the Feudal System. (see attachment: feudalism flow chart)
Identify the 'classes' during the Renaissance.
Complete the "Who would I be in the Middle Ages..." activity.
Class discussion. Ask the following question:
    Should rights be based on birth?
    Should rights be based on jobs?
    What should rights be based on?"
Extensions
Assign each student a "title" (ex. serf, noblewoman, monk, etc.) and run the classroom on that model for an afternoon.

Assessment Plan
- Participation in the "Who would I be" activity.
- Participation in class discussion.

Bibliography
- http://themiddleages.tripod.com

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