Activity and Discussion Questions to accompany

Primary documents featuring Kensington Riots of 1844

Activity

Highlight any unfamiliar words and add them to our vocabulary list. Read the definition of the word in the dictionary and record the definition as part of your ongoing glossary of terms.

Discussion Questions

Bishop Kenrick's Journal Entry

- According to Bishop Kenrick, what were some of the results of the riots in 1844?
- Did any of those results impact the constitutional rights of the people to be allowed freedom to worship? Give evidence to support your response.
- Was there evidence of the second amendment being called into play in Bishop Kenrick's journal.

Governor David Porter's letter and Bishop Kenrick's letter to Maj. Gen. Patterson

- How would you describe the tone of Governor Porter's letter?
- Can you tell if he supports the Bishop and Catholics or not? How can you tell?
- Are Constitutional rights invoked in these two letters? What rights are being referred to?
- In which founding document can we find these rights listed?

Bishop Kenrick's Pastoral letter June 29, 1846 and Kenrick-Frenaye letters

- What style of architecture was commissioned for the construction of the building?
- Based on your readings how would you describe the proportions of the Cathedral? Would you consider them large and imposing or small and inconsequential? What might you conclude from its size?
- One line states *"The situation is highly suitable, being on the front of a large public square...the costliness of the undertaking made us for a time abandon all idea of engaging in it, but the anxiety manifested for several years by yourselves to see such a fabric erected (we have) overcome our fears and (will) lay foundation of it in a short time."* What do you think when the bishop says it will be built in a large public place? Considering the riots, is that sensible? What message might he want to send to the community? Why might the clergy and laity been anxious as Bishop Kenrick mentions in his letter? What does the line imply?