Ideas in Action

Find American principles in two founding documents.

SS24.2.1b "Identify American principles found within the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one idea about people's rights in the Declaration, and circle one way the Constitution puts an American principle to work.

Two Documents, Big Ideas

1. The Declaration of Independence says all people are created equal. It says people have rights, such as life and freedom. It says a government's power comes from the people. These ideas helped the colonies explain why they wanted to be free from Britain.

2. Years later, people wrote the U.S. Constitution. It sets rules for our government. The Constitution begins with the words "We the People." Voters choose people to make laws. The government must follow the Constitution, not just do whatever its leaders want.

3. The Bill of Rights is part of the Constitution. It protects freedoms, including the freedom to speak your mind. The two documents both say people matter. The Declaration names ideas about rights and power. The Constitution gives rules to help put those ideas to work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What idea about equality does the Declaration state?

2. What idea about people's power does the Constitution show when voters choose people to make laws?

3. What freedom does the Constitution protect through the Bill of Rights?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new school club lets only its leader pick every rule. Write two sentences. Name a principle from the Declaration or Constitution, then tell how the club could use that idea.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas in Action

GRADE 2 · SS24.2.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one idea about people's rights in the Declaration, and circle one way the Constitution puts an American principle to work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea about equality does the Declaration state?	**All people are created equal.**
2	What idea about people's power does the Constitution show when voters choose people to make laws?	**The government gets its power from the people.**
3	What freedom does the Constitution protect through the Bill of Rights?	**The freedom to speak your mind.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Declaration says a government's power comes from the people. Club members could vote on club rules instead of letting one leader pick them all.

Accept a correctly named principle from either document and a club action that fits it. Students may suggest voting, listening to all members, or protecting members' freedom to speak.