

Rights That Remain

Read how the Declaration connects people, rights, and government.

SS.5.CG.1.1 "Recognize that the Declaration of Independence affirms that every U.S. citizen has certain unalienable rights."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three unalienable rights named in the passage, and circle the sentence that explains what governments are created to do.

A Declaration About Rights

- ① In July 1776, representatives of the thirteen colonies approved the Declaration of Independence. The document explained why the colonies were separating from Great Britain. It stated that people are born with rights that cannot be taken away. These are called unalienable rights. The Declaration names life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as important examples.
- ② The Declaration says governments are created to protect these rights. A government gets its rightful power from the consent, or agreement, of the people. The writers believed that a government that destroys people's rights is not doing its proper job. This idea later helped shape the United States' beliefs about citizens and government over time.
- ③ Today, U.S. citizens have rights protected by the Constitution and laws. The Declaration did not create every legal right or list all rights people have. Instead, it announced a guiding idea: people have basic rights simply because they are people. Citizens can use this idea when they consider whether government actions respect people's rights fairly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does the passage call rights that cannot be taken away?

2 Which three unalienable rights does the Declaration name?

3 According to the passage, what are governments created to do?

4 How does the passage explain the difference between the Declaration and the Constitution and laws?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about one unalienable right. In the first sentence, name a government action that could protect it. In the second sentence, explain how that action respects the right.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three unalienable rights named in the passage, and circle the sentence that explains what governments are created to do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the passage call rights that cannot be taken away?	Unalienable rights.
2	Which three unalienable rights does the Declaration name?	Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
3	According to the passage, what are governments created to do?	Governments are created to protect people's rights.
4	How does the passage explain the difference between the Declaration and the Constitution and laws?	The Declaration announced the guiding idea of basic rights. The Constitution and laws protect rights for U.S. citizens today.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A city could protect liberty by allowing people to share peaceful opinions at a public meeting. This action respects people's ability to make choices and speak about issues that affect them.

Accept life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness when students name an unalienable right. Accept reasonable government actions if the explanation clearly connects the action to protecting the named right.