Founding Ideas in Indiana

Read three founding documents through an Indiana lens.

IS.1.3 "Read key documents from the Founding Era and analyze major ideas about government, individual rights, and the general welfare embedded in those documents as they pertain to Indiana."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one claim about the source or purpose of government, circle two protections for individuals, and put a star beside two ideas about the common good.

Founding Words, Indiana Questions

1. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence claimed that people have rights to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It said governments get "their just powers from the consent of the governed." Indiana was not yet a state, but these claims gave later residents a way to judge political power. If officials governed without the consent of the governed, residents could argue that the government fell short of the Declaration's standard.

2. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 set rules for the Northwest Territory, which included the land that became Indiana. It promised "trial by jury" and declared that "schools and the means of education" should be encouraged. These provisions connected a limit on government power with a benefit for the public. For people living in the future Indiana, juries could protect individuals accused of crimes, while schools could help the wider community.

3. The Constitution's Preamble, written in 1787, says "We the People" established a government to "establish Justice" and "promote the general Welfare." When Indiana became a state in 1816, its people lived under both state and federal governments. The Preamble does not list a plan for each state. Instead, it names goals that people in Indiana could use to debate public choices, such as whether a law served fairness and the common good.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could people in Indiana use the Declaration's idea of consent to judge a government?

2. How could the Northwest Ordinance's promise of trial by jury protect a person in the future Indiana?

3. Why did the Northwest Ordinance's support for schools concern the wider community, not just individual students?

4. How could people in Indiana use the Preamble to evaluate a proposed law?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Indiana lawmakers propose cutting school funds to expand courts. Write four sentences advising them, using ideas from two documents and addressing both individual rights and the general welfare.

ANSWER KEY

Founding Ideas in Indiana

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one claim about the source or purpose of government, circle two protections for individuals, and put a star beside two ideas about the common good. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could people in Indiana use the Declaration's idea of consent to judge a government?	**They could ask whether the government exercised power with the consent of the governed.**
2	How could the Northwest Ordinance's promise of trial by jury protect a person in the future Indiana?	**A jury could help protect someone accused of a crime from an unfair decision by the government.**
3	Why did the Northwest Ordinance's support for schools concern the wider community, not just individual students?	**Schools could provide education that benefited the wider community.**
4	How could people in Indiana use the Preamble to evaluate a proposed law?	**They could ask whether the law would establish justice and promote the general welfare.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indiana should keep schools open while funding enough courts to protect fair trials. The Northwest Ordinance promised trial by jury and encouraged education in the territory that became Indiana. The Constitution's Preamble calls on government to establish justice and promote the general welfare. Cutting school funds too deeply could harm the common good, so lawmakers should seek a plan that supports both.

Accept different recommendations if the response accurately uses ideas from two documents and explains a balance between individual rights and the general welfare. For the marking job, accept relevant claims or phrases beyond the examples in the questions.