Rights Belong to Everyone

Read the Declaration's ideas and apply them to everyday choices.

5.C.3.4.A "natural, unalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three rights named in the passage, then circle the words that explain where natural rights come from.

Rights Before Rules

1. Imagine a crowd gathered to hear the Declaration of Independence read in 1776. The document says all people have rights that are *unalienable*. These rights are natural, meaning people have them because they are human, not because a ruler gives them permission. The Declaration names life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A government should protect these rights, not claim to create them.

2. What might these words mean in daily life? The right to life means a person's life should be protected. Liberty means people should have freedom to make choices rather than live under unfair control. The pursuit of happiness means people can work toward a life they value, perhaps by learning a craft or joining a community group. It does not promise that every choice will succeed or that every person will always feel happy.

3. The Declaration's words set an important goal, but the country did not live up to it in 1776. Enslaved people were denied liberty, and most women could not vote. Many people later worked to change laws and practices that went against the idea of equal rights. Asking whether a rule protects everyone's rights can help people judge if a government is living up to the Declaration's promise.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why can't a ruler claim to have created people's natural rights?

2. A town works to protect residents from violent attacks. Which right does this help protect? Explain.

3. A person chooses to learn a craft they enjoy. Which right does this show? Does that right promise they will succeed?

4. Why did denying liberty to enslaved people go against the Declaration's claim about rights?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three or four sentences about a new rule for an imaginary town that protects one of the three rights. Name the right, explain how the rule protects it, and explain why the town cannot claim it created the right.

ANSWER KEY

Rights Belong to Everyone

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three rights named in the passage, then circle the words that explain where natural rights come from. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why can't a ruler claim to have created people's natural rights?	**People have natural rights because they are human, not because a ruler gives them permission.**
2	A town works to protect residents from violent attacks. Which right does this help protect? Explain.	**It helps protect the right to life because people's lives should be protected.**
3	A person chooses to learn a craft they enjoy. Which right does this show? Does that right promise they will succeed?	**It shows the pursuit of happiness. That right lets people work toward a life they value, but it does not promise success.**
4	Why did denying liberty to enslaved people go against the Declaration's claim about rights?	**The Declaration says all people have unalienable rights, including liberty, but enslaved people were denied that right.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My town requires clean drinking water in public buildings. This rule helps protect the right to life by reducing the risk of illness. The town did not create this right, because people have natural rights simply because they are human.

Accept any reasonable town rule that protects life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness. The response must explain that the right belongs to people before the town makes its rule.