

Establishing Independence

Key Vocabulary—Voting

amendment: a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution

candidate: a person who works to be elected to a political position

citizen: a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country

create: to make something new

demand: to strongly request or order

election: an event when people choose a member of government by voting

federal: part of the central U.S. government, not state or local governments

illegal: not allowed by the law

minimum: smallest level or amount possible

organize: to plan or arrange

poll taxes: money that some people had to pay to vote in an election

represent: to make decisions for another person or group of people

right: something you are morally or legally allowed to do

serve: to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military

speech: an expression of ideas and opinions that is made by someone who is speaking in front of a group of people

term: the period of time someone serves in a political office

Directions: As you watch the video, write down the answers to the questions below. Eventually you'll have your answers for all 100 civics questions.

War of Independence

Why did the colonists fight the British? USCIS #61

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Declaration of Independence: Purpose

What did the Declaration of Independence do? USCIS #8

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Declaration of Independence: Writer

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? USCIS #62

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Declaration of Independence: Date

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? USCIS #63

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Independence Day

When do we celebrate Independence Day? USCIS #99

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Declaration of Independence: Rights

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? USCIS #9

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George Washington: First President

Who was the first President? USCIS #70

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George Washington: Father of Our Country

Who is the "Father of Our Country"? USCIS #69

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True or False?—Voting

Read each sentence and decide if it is true or false.

If the sentence is false, rewrite the sentence using the correct words.

1. We elect a President for five years.

True

False

2. The Democratic and Republican parties are the two major political parties in the United States.

True

False

3. We vote for President in January.

True

False

4. One of the amendments about voting is that every citizen must vote in a federal election.

True

False

5. To vote for President, citizens must be at least 18 years old.

True

False

6. Susan B. Anthony fought for freedom of religion.

True

False

Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs!

Name: _____

A. Phrases to Know. Learn these phrases from the Declaration of Independence by matching each one with its definition.

- ___ 1. Unalienable rights
- ___ 2. Pursuit of happiness
- ___ 3. Natural rights
- ___ 4. Consent of the governed
- ___ 5. Just powers
- ___ 6. Self-evident

- A. Rights people are born with
- B. Can be seen just by looking at it
- C. Permission of those under the government's rule
- D. Rights that cannot be taken away
- E. Trying to find joy and contentment
- F. Powers that are fair

B. Reconstruct the Declaration. The outline below shows the 4 parts of the Declaration of Independence and what each part is for. You will get a set of cutouts with statements that are in the Declaration. Decide which section each statement belongs in and piece the Declaration back together!

Part 1: Preamble

An introduction explaining why the Declaration is being written.

Part 2: Natural Rights

The colonists explain the rights of people and the role of government power.

Part 3: Grievances

A list of the colonists' complaints.

Part 4: Resolution of Independence

The colonists declare their independence from Britain.

C. Fill In the Blank. One of the most famous parts of the Declaration of Independence is written below. Use words from the word bank to complete it. HINT: Look for phrases from the matching activity!

consent life evident happiness people
powers abolish liberty equal rights

We hold these truths to be self-_____, that all men are created _____, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable _____, that among these are _____, _____, and the pursuit of _____.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just _____ from the _____ of the governed,

That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the _____ to alter or _____ it

D. Find Those Rights! The Declaration lists three (3) rights. Circle them!