

Name: _____

Class: _____

The Declaration of Independence

***WE** hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government....*

1. Look up the underlined words and write a definition/synonym.

evident

endowed

unalienable

Liberty

Pursuit

secure

instituted

Consent

alter

abolish

2. Rewrite the paragraph, substituting new words for the underlined words. The paragraph must make sense. You may rearrange the words if you like.

Answer the following questions using the *Declaration of Independence*.

1. What was the purpose of the *Declaration of Independence*? (Paragraph 1)

2. Identify the three natural or unalienable rights of individuals (written in the 1776 context as men) as stated in the *Declaration of Independence*? (Paragraph 2)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

3. According to the *Declaration of Independence*, from whom do governments get their power? (Paragraph 2)

4. According to the *Declaration of Independence*, what should people do when the government abuses its power? (Paragraph 2)

5. List 5 of the grievances by colonist that are identified in the *Declaration of Independence*. (Hint: There are a total of twenty-eight.)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

6. What did the signers of the *Declaration of Independence* want to do?

7. What was the compact or pledge of the signers?