

## **Declaration of Independence (0-10L)**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following excerpt of the Declaration of Independence.

**IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776**

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America**

1 ... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,  
2 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,  
3 that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to  
4 secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving  
5 their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any  
6 Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of  
7 the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,  
8 laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such  
9 form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and  
10 Happiness.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Now we will look at each section of the Declaration of Independence in order to understand the document better. After each box, answer the questions that follow.

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.

1. Who was We?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What could be another word for “truths”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. A person cannot physically “hold” truths. What could be another word for “hold”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Describing something as “self-evident” means that thing needs no explanation. It is so clear that everyone should understand it. Which truths are “self-evident”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. One self-evident truth is that all men are created equal. How is “all men are created equal” different than “all men are equal”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What would be another word for “Creator”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. “Unalienable” means:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does the Declaration of Independence mean by “unalienable Rights”?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

9. Three examples of unalienable rights are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. What do these mean?
- a. Life –
  - b. Liberty –
  - c. Pursuit of Happiness –

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

10. What does it mean to “secure” something?

11. Governments are \_\_\_\_\_ among Men, \_\_\_\_\_  
their \_\_\_\_\_ powers from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

12. From whom does a government get its power?

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it...

13. What might a government do that is destructive?

14. What is the difference between “alter” and “abolish”?