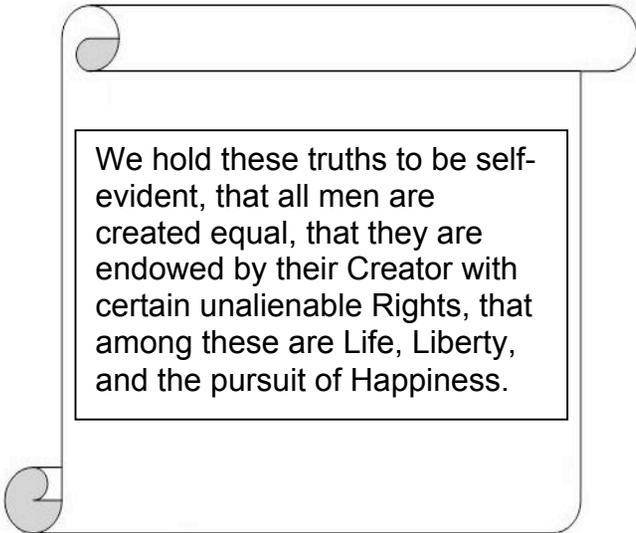


SS.7.C.1.4 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The passage below is from a historical document.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Source: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration</p> <p>Which document contains this passage?</p>	<p>This is a passage from an historical document. Students will need to recall the source of the passage.</p>
A.	Declaration of Independence	Correct – This passage is the opening statement to the Declaration of Independence. The passage is taken from the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence.
B.	Articles of Confederation	Incorrect – The Articles of Confederation were the original U.S. constitution, ratified in 1781, then replaced by the U.S. Constitution in 1789. The passage does not speak about the purpose or function of government.
C.	English Bill of Rights	Incorrect – The English Bill of Rights was written to outline basic rights and limit the power of the king. The passage was written by colonists; the English Bill of Rights was not written by colonists.
D.	U.S. Constitution	Incorrect – The U.S. Constitution was written to create a federal government that reflected the points of view found in the U.S. Declaration of Independence. The U.S. Constitution was written by Americans and not colonists.



SS.7.C.1.4 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The passage below was written by Thomas Paine in his 1776 book, <i>Common Sense</i>.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>The powers of governing . . . in the hands of the king . . . himself such an . . . enemy to liberty . . . is he . . . a proper person to say to these colonies, "YOU SHALL MAKE NO LAWS BUT WHAT I PLEASE."</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Source: Public Domain / Project Gutenberg</p> <p>Based on this passage, with which complaint against the king from the Declaration of Independence would Thomas Paine agree?</p>	<p>The passage is from a 1776 book written by Thomas Paine.</p> <p>Predict which statement Thomas Paine would most likely agree with based on the text in the passage and your knowledge of the complaints listed in the Declaration of Independence.</p>
A	persecuting immigrant groups	Incorrect – The passage does not mention or refer to immigrant groups.
B	taking away religious rights	Incorrect – The passage does not mention or refer to religious rights. "Religious rights" was not an identified complaint in the Declaration of Independence.
C	taking away political rights	Correct – The Declaration of Independence listed several complaints, or grievances, about the king's policies toward the American colonists (imposing taxes with the consent of the people, suspending trial by jury, limiting judicial powers, quartering soldiers, and dissolving legislatures) . These policies denied the colonists their political rights which include having a voice in government.
D	persecuting racial groups	Incorrect – The passage does not support this claim about persecuting racial groups, and is not a complaint found in the Declaration of Independence.



SS.7.C.1.4 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	What is one way that the ideas stated in the Declaration of Independence are evident today?	Identify one way that the ideas found in the Declaration of Independence can be seen in today's society.
A	equal employment opportunities	Correct – The Declaration of Independence indicates that “all men are created equal” and that they are entitled to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. One way to “pursue happiness” to be able to be hired for a job without being denied equal employment opportunities. Several government actions today insure that U.S. citizens are given equal employment opportunities.
B	voting rights amendments	Incorrect –The Declaration of Independence did not include a discussion of voting rights. The purpose of the Declaration of Independence was for the colonists to outline their reasons for cutting themselves off from the British monarchy.
C	selective service	Incorrect –The Declaration of Independence outlined complaints about how the British government was using the British military to abuse the colonists such as requiring that British troops be quartered (housed) in colonial homes. Selective service is a requirement that young men register to defend the nation if needed.
D	term limits	Incorrect –The ideas stated in the Declaration of Independence include complaints against what King George was doing to the colonists. The Declaration of Independence did not focus attention on how long the king had been in office. The issue was abuse of power and not the king's length of time in office. Term limits limit the number of years that a person may serve in elected office.

