

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK
<p><b>SS.5.CG.1.1</b> <i>Recognize that the Declaration of Independence affirms that every U.S. citizen has certain unalienable rights.</i></p>
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Students will identify grievances detailed in the Declaration of Independence.</li> <li>■ Students will describe the idea of “unalienable rights” in the Declaration of Independence as it relates to each citizen.</li> <li>■ Students will discuss the consequences of governments not recognizing that citizens have certain unalienable rights.</li> </ul>

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN	
3rd & 4th Grade	N/A
WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING	
Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">SS.7.CG.1.2</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SS.7.CG.1.5</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SS.7.CG.1.6</a></li> </ul>

TIMING/PACING NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year.</li> <li>• This benchmark may be taught with SS.5.CG.1.4, SS.5.CG.2.3, and/or SS.5.CG.2.6, which address rights found in the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments.</li> </ul>

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK
<p>→ What to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recognize and identify can mean: name, list, match, or write</li> <li>◆ Describe and discuss can mean: write, connect, explain, and elaborate</li> <li>◆ Grievances are serious complaints about someone’s actions</li> <li>◆ Unalienable rights are rights one is born with, and can not be given or taken away by a government</li> <li>◆ The terms unalienable, inalienable, and natural rights may all be used synonymously</li> </ul>

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The definition/concept of the Declaration of Independence
- ◆ The colonial grievances contained in the Declaration of Independence
- ◆ Individuals have unalienable rights
- ◆ Potential consequences when governments do not recognize citizens have unalienable rights

→ Examples:

- ◆ Declaration of Independence
  - Adopted on July 4, 1776
  - Explained why the 13 American colonies were declaring independence from Great Britain
  - Drafted and signed by the Continental Congress (which included many Founding Fathers)
  - Primarily written by Thomas Jefferson and a committee of five
  - Signed in Independence Hall (Philadelphia, PA)
- ◆ Grievances in the Declaration of Independence
  - The Declaration of Independence included a list of specific grievances that King George III had committed against the colonies
  - 27 grievances listed
  - Focused mainly on taxation, representation, and natural rights
  - The colonists wanted to govern themselves
  - Each grievance demonstrated a violation of at least one of the unalienable rights (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness)
- ◆ Unalienable Rights
  - Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
  - *"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"*
- ◆ Consequences of not recognizing unalienable rights
  - The colonists unified in order to abolish the government because King George III was not protecting the colonists' unalienable rights
  - The colonists fought in the Revolutionary War to gain their independence from Great Britain
  - *"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"*

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on The Declaration of Independence:

1. [FJCC Teacher Background Content Information](#)
2. [Archives: The Declaration of Independence](#)
3. [Bill of Rights Institute: Declaration of Independence](#)
4. [Bill of Rights Institute: Equal & Inalienable Rights](#)
5. [US History: Unalienable](#)