

Name _____

The Fundamental Principles of the Declaration of Independence

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the concept of natural rights in the Declaration of Independence. How does this idea shape the document's overall message and its importance in justifying the American colonies' quest for independence?
2. Explain the principle of government by consent as highlighted in the declaration. How does this principle contribute to the establishment of democratic governance and the relationship between citizens and their government?
3. Explore the declaration's emphasis on the right to revolution. How does it articulate the circumstances under which the people have the right to alter or abolish a government, and why is this principle significant in the context of the American Revolution?
4. Although the ideal of equality is not explicitly mentioned in the declaration, it is implicit in its principles. Discuss how the principles of natural rights, government by consent, and the right to revolution contribute to the concept of equality and its enduring impact on American society.

