

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Decoding "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" in the Declaration of Independence

### Open-Ended Response Questions

1. The phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in the Declaration of Independence represents fundamental principles. Explain the concept of "liberty" and how it is emphasized in the declaration. Why is the idea of liberty considered essential in the document?
2. Discuss the multifaceted nature of "the pursuit of happiness" as presented in the declaration. How does it acknowledge individual differences, and why is this acknowledgment significant in the context of the document?
3. Explain how Enlightenment philosophy heavily influenced the concept of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in the Declaration of Independence. Provide examples of specific Enlightenment thinkers and their ideas that informed this phrase.
4. The inclusion of the phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in the declaration signifies the unique character of the United States. Explain what this phrase signifies about the United States as a nation and its commitment to specific principles. How does it distinguish the nation from others?

