

DAILY QUESTION:

Why did the Continental Congress write the Constitution?

Dictionary Skills: Use your dictionary skills to locate and write each definition of the vocabulary word.

1. independent: _____

2. pursuit: _____

3. interfere: _____

4. secured: _____

5. interpreting: _____

6. settling: _____

Write an original sentence with two of the vocabulary words.

1. _____

2. _____

The student will describe the meaning of a. Natural rights found in the Declaration of Independence: b. "We the people" c. The federal system of government in the United States

Declaration of Independence:

DICTIONARY SKILLS: independent/pursuit/interfere/secured/interpreting/settling

(A) The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence is a summary stating why the Declaration was written. Members of the Continental Congress were unhappy with the control Britain had over the colonies. They believed the colonies had a right to become a free and **independent** nation of their own right.

1. Why were the members of the Continental Congress unhappy? _____

(B) Members of the Continental Congress believed that all people were created equally, and all should have the right to life, liberty, and the **pursuit** of happiness. The members of Congress believed that these were natural rights that could not be taken away. Everyone in America was born with these rights. If the government should try to **interfere** with those rights, then the people have the right to either change or do away with the government. The people could then form a new government which would give them back their rights. The fifty-six signers to the Declaration of Independence promised each other their life's fortunes and honor in support of the document.

2. Name some of the rights that all people are entitled to under the Constitution. _____

The Constitution of the United States of America:

(C) The Constitution is a plan of government. It explains to us that our government is a democracy. The Constitution begins with the Preamble, or introduction. It states who "We the People" and what, "in order to form a more perfect Union", is the purpose for writing, or creating this document. Writers of the Constitution wanted to create a form of government that would be the most fair to all the people. They wanted to make sure that

peace and freedom were **secured** for not only themselves, but for all future generations of Americans to come.

3. secured means: A) created B) citizens C) protected

4. What is the Constitution? _____

The Federal System of Government:
--

(D) After many long debates, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were able to compromise, or reach an agreement, over how much power the federal government would have. It was agreed that the national government would have power over affairs that either affected or impacted the nation as a whole. States would maintain authority over matters that involved them separately. In some instances, the national and state governments would share in some of their powers. The delegates divided the government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative branch is responsible for making the laws. The executive branch is responsible to carry out the laws. The judicial branch is responsible for **interpreting** and **settling** differences about the interpretation of the laws. These three branches would offer a system of checks and balances for the government. This system gives each branch of government different powers while allowing it to check the authority of the others.

5. Describe the powers of the national government. _____

6. Describe the three branches of government. _____
