

Name _____

Date _____



His Soul Goes Marching On

The Life and Legacy of *John Brown*

A lesson from West Virginia Archives and History www.wvculture.org/history

Subject	Date	Period(s)
<i>Declarations and the Quest for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness</i>		
Materials Needed		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Declarations and the Quest for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness</i> worksheet. 2. Student copies of <i>The Declaration of Independence</i>. 3. Student copies of <i>A Declaration of Liberty By the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America</i>. <p>For more information access <i>His Soul Goes Marching On: The Life and Legacy of John Brown</i> at http://www.wvculture.org/history/jbexhibit/jbtoc.html.</p>		
Content Standards		
<u>West Virginia Studies</u>		
<p><u>SS.O.8.05.07</u> research and construct the sequence of events and cite reasons for and resulting consequences of conflicts and wars that led to the formation of West Virginia as a state.</p> <p><u>SS.O.8.05.08</u> interpret facts about West Virginia and other areas from various types of charts, graphs, pictures, models, timelines and primary sources and summarize what you have learned.</p> <p><u>SS.O.8.05.13</u> access the moral, ethical, legal tensions that led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia and how those tensions were resolved.</p> <p><u>SS.O.8.05.15</u> point out and locate places of historical importance in West Virginia that can be visited by tourists.</p>		
<u>United States Studies to 1900</u>		
<p><u>SS.O.10.05.15</u> research the institution of slavery and its effects on the political, economic and social development of the United States and summarize their findings.</p> <p><u>SS.O.10.05.16</u> compare and contrast the political, economic and social conditions in the United States before the Civil War.</p> <p><u>SS.O.10.05.17</u> analyze and sequence the causes and effects of the major events of the Civil War and Reconstruction</p> <p><u>SS.O.10.05.22</u> research, analyze and interpret primary sources and compare contemporary media to better understand events and life in the United States to 1900.</p>		
<p><u>21C.S.9-12.1</u> The student will access, analyze, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information in a variety of formats using appropriate technology skills and communicate that information in an appropriate oral, written, or multimedia format.</p>		
<p><u>21C.S.9-12.2</u> The student will demonstrate the ability to explore and develop new ideas, to intentionally apply sound reasoning processes and to frame, analyze and solve complex problems using appropriate technology tools.</p>		

21C.S.9-12.3 The student will exhibit leadership, ethical behavior, respect for others; accept responsibility for personal actions considering the impact on others; take the initiative to plan and execute tasks; and interact productively as a member of a group.

Objectives

Students will interpret primary source documents.
Students will analyze documents related to John Brown's Raid.
Students will identify and describe the parts of *The Declaration of Independence* and other documents that use it as a model.

Time

90 minutes

Essential Questions

How do others use *The Declaration of Independence* as a model when seeking their own freedom?

Anticipatory Activities

Ask students to write down five reasons why *The Declaration of Independence* was and continues to be important. Review and discuss the reasons that they had written down.

Procedures

1. Break students into groups of three or more and hand out the *Declarations and the Quest for the Pursuit of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness* Worksheet, a copy of *The Declaration of Independence* and a copy of *A Declaration of Liberty By the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America*.
2. Walk around the room and answer questions as the students complete the worksheet.
3. As students complete the worksheet stop by each group and make sure that they have provided the proper answers for questions 1 and 2 because it will help them as they work on the comparisons in the second part of the worksheet. It will also make answer review much easier.
4. When students complete the sheet review, discuss the answers with them.
5. As an additional exercise ask students to create a *Declaration of Independence* of their own.

Assessments

Performance Tasks

1. Completion and participation in the worksheet exercise.
2. Participation in the discussion following the exercise.
3. Completion of the follow up exercise that has them write their own *Declaration of Independence*.

Final Assessments

Bell Ringer

1. Ask students to explain the parts of *The Declaration of Independence*.

Essay Questions

1. Identify and explain the parts of the *The Declaration of Independence*.
2. Numerous people seeking their freedom have used the *Declaration of Independence* as a model. Using John Brown's *A Declaration of Liberty By the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America* as an example, explain how abolitionists like Brown used *The Declaration of Independence* as a model for the freedom of slaves.



His Soul Goes Marching On

The Life and Legacy of *John Brown*

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Declarations and the Quest for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

Instructions:

Following John Brown's capture at Harpers Ferry on October 18, 1859, investigators found documents at the raiders' base of operations, the Kennedy Farm in Washington County, Maryland. These documents were later published by Virginia governor Henry Wise. One of the recovered documents was entitled *A Declaration of Liberty by the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America*. This document, like numerous others, utilized *The Declaration of Independence* as a model to outline their purposes, views and grievances behind their actions. In this exercise you will examine the parts of the Declaration of Independence and compare them to John Brown's *A Declaration of Liberty by the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America* (Please note that the documents below have not been corrected to reflect current trends in spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Also note that items that have been placed in [] have been added to explain the document and were not part of the original).

Use *The Declaration of Independence* and *A Declaration of Liberty by the Slave Population of the United States* to answer the following questions:

1. Historians and scholars have identified four main parts of *The Declaration of Independence*. Look for the words below in [] in *The Declaration of Independence* and describe each of the parts below:

1. INTRODUCTION

2. PREAMBLE – STATEMENT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

3. LIST OF GRIEVANCES

4. STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OR SOVEREIGNTY

2. What are the five propositions of good government outlined in the preamble of *The Declaration of Independence*? Which of these do you think an abolitionist like John Brown would find most important?

3. Who is blamed for the grievances outlined in the Declaration?

4. What types of things are found in the grievances section?

5. In the statement of independence, who is the Supreme Judge of the world?

6. Who is the target audience for the statement of independence in *The Declaration of Independence*?

7. In what ways do the introductions to *The Declaration of Independence* and the *Declaration of Liberty* differ?

8. Beyond life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, what hath Nature also given freely to all men according to the *Declaration of Liberty*?

9. In the *Declaration of Liberty* what is the only circumstance when a person's inherent rights can be limited?

10. According to the *Declaration of Liberty* which principles or forms seem likely to safeguard the happiness of the human race?

11. What would be the punishment of those who violated the sacred principles and oppressed their fellow men?

12. What types of complaints are found in the list of grievances?

13. What are the declared intentions announced in the *Declaration of Liberty*?

14. Overall, in what ways do you think that these declarations are similar and different?

15. Why do you think that *The Declaration of Independence* was used as a model in this case and in other cases around the world?

The Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

[INTRODUCTION]

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

[PREAMBLE – STATEMENT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT]

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.--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, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

[LIST OF GRIEVANCES]

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

[STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OR SOVEREIGNTY]

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;

that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

[The signatories to the declaration have not been included for this exercise. For an image of the Declaration of Independence or more information about it go to www.archives.gov.)]

A Declaration of Liberty By the Representatives of the Slave Population of the United States of America.

[Note: The following document reflects the original published form of the document. The reader should note the haphazard use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.]

[INTRODUCTION]

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary" for an oppressed People to Rise, and assert their Natural Rights, as Human Beings, as Native and Mutual Citizens of a free Republic, and break that odious Yoke of oppression, which is so unjustly laid upon them by their fellow countrymen, "and to assume among the powers of Earth the same equal privileges to which the Laws of Nature, & natures God entitle, them; A moderate respect for the opinions of Man kind, requires that they should declare the causes which incite them to this Just & worthy action.

[PREAMBLE OR STATEMENT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT]

"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; & the pursuit of happiness, That Nature hath freely given to all Men, a full supply of Air, Water, and Land; for their sustinance, & mutual happiness. That No Man has any right to deprive his fellow Man, of these Inherent rights, except in punishment of crime. "That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their Just powers from the consent of the governed, That when any form of government, becomes destructive to these ends, It is the right of the People, to alter, Amend, or Remoddel it, Laying its foundation on such Principles, & organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect the safety, & happiness" of the Human Race, To secure equal rights, privileges, & Justice to all; Irrespective of Sex; or Nation; To secure Fraternal kindness to all Friends of Equal Moral privileges, to all who honestly abandon their Despotic oppressive rule. We hold this truth to be self evident; That it is the highest Privilege, & Plain duty of Man; to strive in every reasonable way, to promote the Happiness, Mental, Moral, & Physical elevation of his fellow Man. And that People, or Clanish Oppressors; who wickedly violate this sacred principle; oppressing their fellow Men, will bring upon themselves that certain and fearful retribution, which is the Natural, & Necessary penalty of evil

Doing. "Prudence, indeed will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for light & transient causes; But when a long train of abuses, & usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object; evinces a design to perpetuate an absolute Despotism; and most cruel bondage; It is their Right, it is their Duty, to resist & change such Government, & provide safeguards for their future Liberty." "Such has been the patient sufferance of the slaves of the United States, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to Crush this foul system of oppression. The history of Slavery in the United States, is a history of injustice and cruelties inflicted upon the Slave in every conceivable way, and in barbarity not surpassed by the most savage Tribes. It is the embodiment of all that is Evil, and ruinous to a Nation; and subvercive of all Good. "In proof of which; facts innumerable have been submitted to the People, and have rec'd the verdict and condemnation of a candid and Impartial World."

[LIST OF GRIEVANCES]

Our Servants; Members of Congress; and other Servants of the People, who receive exorbitant wages from the People; in return for ther [sic] unjust Rule, "have refused to pass laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless that People, would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

Our President and other Leeches have called together legislative, or treasonable Bodies, at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of our public records; for the sole purpose of fatigueing us into compliance with their measures.

They have desolved Representative houses, for opposing with manly firmness, their invasions of the rights of the people.

They have refused to grant Petitions presented by numerous and respectable Citizens, asking redress of grivauces [sic] imposed upon us, demanding our Liberty and natural rights.

With contempt they spurn our humble petitions; and have failed to pass laws for our relief.

"They have prevented in all possible ways, the administration of Justice to the Slave. They have made Judges Taney dependent on their will alone, for the tenure, of their office, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

They have erected a Multitude of new offices, and Sent on Swarms of Blood Suckers, and Moths, to harass the People, and eat out their Substance.

They have effected to render the Military, independent of, and superior to the power and wishes of the People, (the Civil power.)

Claiming that knowledge is power, they have, (for their own safety,) kept us in total darkness, and Ignorance, inflicting base cruelties, for any attempt on our part to obtain knowledge.

They have protected base Men, Pirates (engaged in a most Inhuman traffic; The Foreign; and Domestic, Slave Trade.) "by mock trials, from punishment, for unprovoked murders which they have committed upon us, and free Citizens of the States.

They have prevented by law, our having any Traffick or deal with our fellow Men; Regardless of our wishes, they declare themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

They have abdicated government among us, by declaring us out of their protection, and waging a worse than cruel war upon us continually.

The facts and a full description of the enormous sin of Slavery, may be found in the General History of American Slavery, which is a history of repeated injuries, of base hypocrisy; A cursed treasonable, usurpation; The most abominable provoking atrocities; Which are but a mockery of all that is Just, or worthy of any people. "Such cruelty, tyranny, and perfidy, has hardly a parallel, in the history of the most barbarous ages.

Our Servants, or Law makers; are totally unworthy the name of Half Civilized Men. All their National acts, (which apply to Slavery,) are false, to the words Spirit, and intention, of the Constitution of the United States, and the Declaration of Independence.

They say by word & Act, That their own Children, or any faithful Citizen, may be legally robbed [sic] of every Natural and Sacred Right, and that we had no rights whatever.

They are a Blot upon the character, the honor, of any Nation, which claims to have the least shadow or spark of Civilization above the lowest, most inferior Canibal Races.

This is a slight though brief recital, of some of the enormous atrocities, of these Idle, haughty, tyrannical, Arrogant Land Monopolists; slave holders our lords and masters. From which, Good Lord Deliver us. These are some of the facts, which we now, (after the lapse of 83 years, since the writing and signing of that Sacred Instrument, Honored and Adored by our Fathers, which declares that it is Self Evident that all Men are created Equal, Endowed by their Creator with certain inherent rights &c.") submit to the Decision of all Candid; true Republican, Friends of Universal Freedom, and Natural Equality of Rights.

All We Demand; is our Liberty, and the Natural rights and immunities of faithful Citizens of the United States. We will Obtain these rights or Die in the Struggle to obtain them. We make war upon oppression, we have no controversy with any Religious Sect, our intention is not to molest any Good Man, whatever may be his religious belief. "The welfare of the People; Is the first Great Law." We hold these to be self evident truths, That any Tribe, Rulers, or People, who Rob and cruelly oppress their faithful Laboring Citizens, have within themselves the Germ, of their own certain and fearful overthrow; It is one of Nature's Immutable Laws ; that "According to the measure that ye mete; so shall it be Measured to you again." Herein is the secret of Security & true happiness, for Individuals, And the only firm Basis, upon which Governments, may be permanently Established; where the Citizens, are Devoted to the greatest good of their fellow Men, The more humble, benighted & oppressed they are. So much more sympathy, & earnest

effort for their relief, is demanded, striving earnestly to promote the Safety and prosperity of their Nation; & the Human Race.

It is a fixed Law of Nature, That any People, or Nation, whose steady purpose, & Constant Practice, is in accordance with these principles; Must go forward Progressing; So long as Man continues to Exist. For in Nature the Principle of Reciprocity is Great.

"The Legitimate object of all Punishment, is to prevent Crime." When any Punishment is inflicted more than is necessary to prevent Crime, it then ceases to be a Punishment, It has then become a Barbarous Crime. A Sore Evil. "The Natural Object of all Government is to Protect the right. Defend the Inocent. When any set of Usurpers, Tribe, or community, fail to protect the right, but furnish protection & encouragement to the Villain, by bestowing a Bounty, or Premium, upon the vile Thief, Rober [sic], Libertine, Pirate; & Woman killing Slave Holder; as a reward for their deeds of rascality and Barbarism; And inflict grievous cruelties upon the inocent [sic], Shooting and Butchering those most faithful, Citizens, who have striven Manfully, for the relief of the down troden & oppressed of their country, Who fought bravely in support of the Great Principles set forth in Our Declaration of Independence, from the oppressive Rule of England. Encouraging in various ways, by bribery and fraud, the most Fiendish acts of Barbarism, (like those Perpetrated within the limits of the United States, at Blounts Fort; in Florida and in other Territories. [sic]) under the Jurisdiction and guidance of Slave holding Authority, & in strict accordance with Slave holding Rules.)

They have transcended their own limits, They have fairly outwitted themselves; Their Slave Code is a Shame to any Nation, Their Laws, are no Laws, they themselves are no more than a Band of Base Piraticle Rulers. They are a curse to themselves, a most lamentable Blot upon Society.

[STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE]

"In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terras, Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury A Class of oppressors, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyranical Despotism, is unfit to rule any People.

Nor have we been wanting in attention, to our Oppressors; We have warned them from time to time, of attempts (made by their headlong Blindnes,) to perpetuate, extend, strengthen, and revive the dieing eliments [sic] of this cursed Institution. We have reminded them of our unhappy condition, and of their Crueties [sic], We have appealed to their native Justice and magnanimity, we have conjured them, by the ties of our common nature, our Brotherhood, & common Parentage, to disavow these usurpations, which have destroyed our Kindred friendship, and endangered their safety. "They have been Deaf to the voice of Justice & Consanguinity. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces their tyranny & unjust rule over us. Declaring that we will serve them no longer as slaves, knowing that the "Laborer is worthy of his hire."

We therefore, the Representatives of the circumscribed citizens of the United States of America in General Congress assembled, appealing to the supream [sic] Judge of the World, for the

rectitude of our intentions, Do in the name, & by the authority of the Oppressed Citizens of the Slave States, Solemnly publish and Declare; that the Slaves are, & of right ought, to be as free & independent as the unchangable Law of God, requires that All Men Shall be. That they are absolved from all allegiance to those Tyrants, who still persist in forcibly subjecting them to perpetual "Bondage, and that all friendly connection between them & such Tyrants, is, & ought to be totally desolved, And that as free, & independent citizens of these states, they have a perfect right, a sufficient & just cause, to defend themselves against the tyranny of their oppressors. To solicit aid from & ask the protection of all true friends of humanity & reform, of whatever nation, & wherever found; A right to contract Alliances, & to do all other acts & things which free independent Citizens may of right do. And for the support of Declaration; with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence; We mutually Pledge to each other, Our Lives, and Our Sacred honor. Indeed; I tremble for my Country, when I reflect; that God is Just; And that his Justice; will not sleep forever" &c. &c. Nature is mourning for its murdered, and Afflicted Children. Hung be the Heavins in Scarlet.

[The above copy has the spelling, punctuation, and use of capitals, just as they are found in the original. The word "Taney," over a caret, is transcribed as in the original. This document bears no signature, unless the cipher on the line next to the last be so intended. Handwriting large, probably done by Owen Brown, sometimes copyist for his father. The paper (foolscap) upon which it is written, is pasted, sheet under sheet, on white cloth attached to, and rolled up on a round stick, and tied with a string attached to one end.—Trans.]