

## Lesson 6: An “Apple of Gold” in a “Picture of Silver”: The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

### Answer Key

#### Graphic Organizer for Background Essay: An “Apple of Gold” in a “Picture of Silver”: The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

1. What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence, the “apple of gold”?

*The Declaration sets up the Founding principles of the United States.*

2. What is the purpose of the U.S. Constitution, “the picture of silver”?

*The Constitution “frames” the Declaration and its principles by setting up structures of republican government.*

Principle	Declaration of Independence	U.S. Constitution
<b>popular sovereignty</b>	<i>“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, <u>deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed</u>”</i>	<i>“We the People”</i>
<b>justice and equality</b>	<i>“We hold these truths to be self-evident, <u>that all men are created equal</u>, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”</i>	<i>“establish Justice”</i>
<b>rule of law</b>	<i>“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.”</i>	<i>“insure domestic Tranquility”</i>
<b>national security</b>	<i>“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”</i>	<i>“provide for the common defence”</i>
<b>common good</b>	<i>“We hold these truths to be self-evident, <u>that all men are created equal</u>,”</i>	<i>“promote the general Welfare”</i>
<b>liberty</b>	<i>“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, <u>Liberty</u> and the pursuit of Happiness.”</i>	<i>“secure the Blessings of Liberty”</i>

## “Fragment on the Constitution and Union”

### Comprehension Questions

1. According to Lincoln, what has allowed the United States to attain prosperity?

*The Constitution has allowed the United States to attain prosperity.*

2. What principle provides the foundation for the Constitution?

*Liberty is the principle that provides the foundation for the Constitution.*

3. In which document is this principle discussed?

*Liberty is discussed in the Declaration of Independence.*

4. Why is this principle important?

*Liberty is important because it creates equal opportunity and hope for all Americans that they can better their lives.*

5. What is the relationship of the Constitution to the “apple of gold”?

*The Constitution is meant to “frame” or preserve liberty (the “apple of gold”).*

### Government around the World

Answers for Column 1:

What form of government exists in this country? *A republican form of government*

Does the government have a written constitution? *Yes*

Who wrote this constitution? *Delegates sent by the states*

Does the constitution include a bill of rights? *Yes*

Does the constitution limit the power of government? *Yes*

Does the constitution protect individual rights? *Yes*

Does the constitution separate the powers of government? *Yes*

Does the constitution guarantee popular sovereignty? *Yes*

Does the constitution describe an amendment process? *Yes*

Does the constitution permit one part of government to check or balance another? *Yes*

Does the constitution create a federal system? *Yes*

Does the constitution create a republican government? *Yes*