



Declaration of Independence Primary Source Questions - Teacher Answer Key

1. What does the Declaration say is the purpose of a government?
- To secure and protect the unalienable rights of man.

2. Based on how it is used, what do you think is the meaning of an unalienable right?
- Inherent and unable to be taken away.

3. Who do you think the authors intended their audience to be?
- The public, informing them as to the reason behind declaring independence. Additionally, the British King and Parliament.

4. Was the Declaration the first time the colonists relayed their grievances to the British King and Parliament? Explain your reasoning.
- It was not, because the document describes warning the British against stepping on their rights and appealed to their sense of justice, but these grievances were not previously recognized by the British.

5. What do you think is the general attitude of the document?
- Up to student's interpretation. Perhaps frustration, anger, fighting against injustice, confidence.