

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Philosophy and Revolution\*\***

## **The Influence of the American Revolution**

As you know, the American colonists revolted against the British government because they believed that their rights were being violated. Three very important documents came out of the American Revolution: The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These are important because they influenced lots of other countries to have revolutions, and changed the world's beliefs about the purpose of government. In this activity, you will connect documents from the American Revolution to events in other countries to show this influence.

### **The Declaration of Independence**

Written to explain to the world the reasons the colonists have for revolution, the document contains some important phrases:

- 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
- At the close of the document, the colonists announced to the world that they were a free and independent nation, separate from Great Britain

### **The U.S. Constitution**

This created the structure of the U.S. government, and is the oldest constitution in the world

- Separates powers into legislative, executive, and judicial branches

### **The Bill of Rights**

These ten amendments protect the rights of citizens from the power of the government.

Some key examples:

- Amendment I: Congress may not make a law limiting the religion people practice, or take away freedom of speech or the press.
- Amendment VIII: If someone is arrested, bail must be fair; punishments must fit the crime.

In this table are quotes from documents produced by revolutions in other countries. For each one, write in your own words the information from the American Revolution (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, or Bill of Rights) that matches the event (from the back of this paper).

Revolution	American Influence
<p><b>France 1791</b>            During the French Revolution, the French people produced The Declaration of the Rights of Man, which states that <i>Every citizen may... speak, write, and print with freedom.</i></p>	
<p><b>Liberia 1847</b>            Founded as a nation of freed slaves, Liberia's constitution states that <i>Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor excessive punishment inflicted.</i></p>	
<p><b>Mexico 1917</b>            In organizing the national government of Mexico, the Mexican constitution states that <i>The supreme power of the Federation is divided, into legislative, executive, and judicial branches.</i></p>	
<p><b>Vietnam 1945</b>            In 1945, the new president of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, declared independence from France. He announced a Vietnamese Declaration of Independence, which stated that <i>we, members of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, solemnly declare to the world that Vietnam has the right to be a free and independent country.</i></p>	
<p><b>The United Nations 1948</b>            In 1948, the United Nations approved a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It declares that <i>Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person</i></p>	

**Analysis Question** (answer on your own paper)-75 words

CP: Explain the influence of the American Revolution on other countries.

HON: Discuss at least two philosophers, explain how their ideas influenced the United States and how the United States influenced other countries. Be specific