

Rights in the Great 18th Century Declarations

Please read the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. After reading the Declarations, answer the questions that follow.

1. How does the Declaration of Independence describe rights? Where do they come from? What are the characteristics of rights?
2. What do you think a “right to pursue happiness” guarantees?
3. How does the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen describe rights? Where do they come from? What are the characteristics of rights?
4. Does anything from these declarations surprise you?
5. Why does the Declaration of the Rights of Man enumerate many rights?
6. What similarities did you notice between the two declarations? What differences did you notice?