

As you have learned, thinkers like John Locke and Voltaire led the Enlightenment. They asserted that people have **natural rights**, or rights that people possess at birth, such as life, liberty, and property. Two key documents describe these rights: the American Declaration of Independence and the French *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. In 1993, Nelson Mandela of South Africa received the Nobel Peace Prize. In his speech at the ceremony, he explained that the rights detailed in the declarations are still important.

DOCUMENT 1

from the **Declaration of Independence** (July 4, 1776)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed [provided] by their Creator with certain unalienable [guaranteed] 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.



This painting illustrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

1. What rights are citizens guaranteed?

DOCUMENT 2

from the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** (August 26, 1789)

The representatives of the French people, organized as a National Assembly, . . . have determined to set forth in a solemn declaration the natural, unalienable, and sacred rights of man. Articles:

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions [classes] may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural . . . rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

2. Think about what you learned in Section 3.3 about the roots of the French Revolution. In what ways might the ideas in this document have inspired the French people to revolt?



Mandela and fellow Nobel recipient, F. W. de Klerk, were elected co-presidents of South Africa in 1994.



DOCUMENT 3

from **Nobel Lecture** by Nelson Mandela (December 10, 1993)

Nelson Mandela helped lead the struggle to end **apartheid** (uh PAHRT hyt) in South Africa. This system had denied black South Africans their rights. In recognition of his efforts, Mandela received the Nobel Peace Prize. The following excerpt is from his acceptance speech.

The value of our shared reward will and must be measured by the joyful peace which will triumph, because [of] the humanity that bonds both black and white into one human race. . . .

Thus shall we live, because we will have created a society which recognizes that all people are born equal, with each entitled in equal measure to life, liberty, prosperity, human rights, and good governance.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

3. How do the rights Mandela discusses reflect those described in Documents 1 and 2?

FIND OUT MORE Locate the full text of Nelson Mandela's Nobel Lecture. Tell where you found it. Then use a secondary source to learn more about why Mandela was awarded the Nobel Prize.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

WRITING LAB



GeoJournal

DBQ Practice Think about the ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. How did these ideas influence Nelson Mandela?

Step 1. Review your answers to Constructed Response questions 1, 2, and 3.

Step 2. On your own paper, jot down notes about the main ideas expressed in each document.

Document 1: Declaration of Independence

Main Idea(s) _____

Document 2: Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

Main Idea(s) _____

Document 3: Nobel Lecture

Main Idea(s) _____

Step 3. Use your notes to construct a topic sentence that answers this question: How did the Declaration of Independence and the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* influence Nelson Mandela?

Step 4. Write a paragraph that explains specific phrases and ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*. Go to **Student Resources** for Guided Writing support.