



Who Was Included in "All Men Are Created Equal"?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 The most famous line of the Declaration says that all men are created equal and have rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Yet in 1776, those words did not apply to everyone. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote them, enslaved more than 600 people during his lifetime, and in most states women could not vote. Jefferson's first draft even attacked the slave trade, but Congress removed that passage before adopting the text.



2 Over time, however, the same sentence became a tool for people who had been left out. In 1848, women's rights activists at Seneca Falls rewrote it as "all men and women are created equal." On July 5, 1852, the formerly enslaved writer Frederick Douglass asked an audience in Rochester, New York, what the Fourth of July meant to an American slave. His answer was that the celebration exposed the gap between the nation's ideals and its practice. Even so, Douglass called the ideas in the Declaration "saving principles" and urged Americans to live up to them.

3 This is why many Americans now see July 4 and Juneteenth as two parts of one story: a promise made in 1776, and the long struggle to keep it.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) The words all men are created equal first left many people out, but later helped them fight for their rights.
- (B) Women got the right to vote in 1848.
- (C) Thomas Jefferson was the most important writer in America.
- (D) Frederick Douglass did not like the Fourth of July.

2. What did Congress do with Jefferson's first draft?

- (A) It changed the date to July 2.
- (B) It added a line about women's rights.
- (C) It removed a passage that attacked the slave trade.
- (D) It asked Douglass to rewrite it.

3. What did women's rights activists do at Seneca Falls in 1848?

- (A) They gave a speech in Rochester.
- (B) They voted for a new president.
- (C) They signed the Declaration again.
- (D) They rewrote the famous line to include women.

4. What did Douglass most likely believe?

- (A) The Declaration should be thrown away.
- (B) The ideas were good, but the nation was not following them.
- (C) Enslaved people should not celebrate anything.
- (D) The Fourth of July should move to July 5.

5. In paragraph 2, what does exposed mean in the celebration exposed the gap?

- (A) Showed clearly something that was hard to see
- (B) Closed or filled
- (C) Made bigger on purpose
- (D) Kept a secret

6. Why does the writer mention Juneteenth in the last paragraph?

- (A) To say that Juneteenth is more important than July 4
- (B) To explain when Juneteenth became a holiday
- (C) To show that the two days tell one story of a promise and the effort to keep it
- (D) To suggest that the two holidays should be on the same day



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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| 1. pursuit | a. a long and hard effort to get or do something |
| 2. apply | b. the act of trying to get or reach something |
| 3. draft | c. to be true for a person or a situation |
| 4. activist | d. a first version of a piece of writing that may change later |
| 5. expose | e. a person who works hard to bring social or political change |
| 6. ideals | f. to show something that was hidden or hard to see |
| 7. urge | g. ideas or standards of how things should be |
| 8. struggle | h. to strongly ask someone to do something |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Yet in 1776, those words did not apply to everyone.”

Hint: Use But and were not true for or left out.

2. “Over time, however, the same sentence became a tool for people who had been left out.”

Hint: Start with Later, and use used to fight for their rights.

3. “His answer was that the celebration exposed the gap between the nation's ideals and its practice.”

Hint: Use showed clearly, and change ideals and practice to what the country said and what it did.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: July 4 can be a holiday for every American.

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- The ideas in the Declaration belong to everyone, and Douglass himself called them saving principles.
- People who were left out, like the women at Seneca Falls, used the same words to fight for their rights.
- A shared birthday can bring people together if the country also remembers its past honestly.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- In 1776, the promise did not include enslaved people or women, so the day does not mean the same for everyone.
- Douglass said the celebration showed the gap between the nation's ideals and its practice.
- Freedom came much later for many people, so for them Juneteenth may feel like the more important day.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>