

Inquiry Design Model (IDM) Blueprint™

Compelling Question	Is the U.S. Constitution compatible with the Declaration of Independence?		
Standards and Practices	NH SS:CV:8:2.3: Describe ways in which particular events and documents contributed to the evolution of American government, e.g., states' rights, universal suffrage, or civil rights.		
Staging the Question	Was the U.S. Constitution a pro-slavery document – a “pact with the devil?”		
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	
What are the values for liberty and equality laid out in the Declaration of Independence?	What parts of the U.S. Constitution support the institution of slavery?	What is the historical debate surrounding this topic?	
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	
Read the Declaration of Independence and report your thoughts on what the preamble says about the values of liberty and equality in the United States.	Read excerpts from the U.S. Constitution and determine if you think these parts are enough to support the argument that the Constitution was a “pro-slavery” document.	After reading supporting documents, made an argument on either of the questions above.	
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources	
<p style="text-align: center;">The Declaration of Independence http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/ See below for Worksheet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The US Constitution http://constitutionus.com/ See below for Worksheet</p>	<p>American Constitution Society https://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/the-proslavery-constitution/ The Atlantic https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/how-the-constitution-was-indeed-pro-slavery/406288/ Law and Liberty http://www.libertylawsite.org/2018/03/14/the-constitution-a-pro-slavery-or-anti-slavery-document-allen-guelzo-responds-3-5ths-clause-controversy/</p>	

		Teaching American History http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/the-constitution-of-the-united-states-is-it-pro-slavery-or-anti-slavery/
Summative Performance Task	Argument	Write an argument on the following question: Is the U.S. Constitution compatible with the Declaration of Independence?
	Extension	Write an argument on the following question: Was the U.S. Constitution a pro-slavery document – a “pact with the devil?”
Taking Informed Action	Discussion: What should our actions be today to work towards a society that lives up to the ideals spelled out in the Declaration of Independence?	

Name: _____

Historians Paul Finkelman & David Waldstreicher argue that of the 84 clauses in the constitution, six are directly concerned with slavery and five others have implications for slavery, is the Constitution a pro-slavery document? Is it incompatible with the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence?

“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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” – Declaration of Independence

“The federal Constitution, therefore, decides with great propriety on the case of our slaves, when it views them in the mixt character of persons and of property. . . . Let the compromising expedient of the Constitution be mutually adopted, which regards them as inhabitants, but as debased by servitude below the equal level of free inhabitants; which regards the slave as divested of two fifth of the man.” – James Madison, Federalist 54

3/5 compromise

Art I Sec 2 Cl 3: Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

Slave trade compromise

Art I Sec 9 Cl 1 The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax

or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

Art V Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article

Fugitive Slave Clause

Article 4, Section 2 Cl 3 3: No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Electoral college

Art II Sec 1 Cl 2 “Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress...”

Export Duties

Art I Sec 3 Cl 5: No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State

Suppression of Insurrections

Art I Sec 8 Cl 15: To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions