

Answer Key Thomas Paine Common Sense Worksheet Answers

Common Sense literacy

Common Sense by Thomas Paine

Name: _____

Period: _____

Common Sense is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775-76 that inspired people in the Thirteen Colonies to declare and fight for independence from England in the summer of 1776. In clear, simple language it explained the advantages of and the need for immediate independence. It was published anonymously on January 10, 1776, at the beginning of the American Revolution and became an immediate sensation. It was sold and distributed widely and read aloud at taverns and meeting places. Washington had it read to all his troops, which at the time had surrounded the British army in Boston. In proportion to the population of the colonies at that time (2.5 million), it had the largest sale and circulation of any book published in American history.

The following are excerpts from Common Sense. Match the text to the explanations on the right side:

Excerpt	Explanation
"It was absurd for an island the England to rule a continent."	A. "But Britain is the parent country; she sends, then, the more shame upon her conduct, than Britain do not desert their young, nor struggle make war upon their families..."
"The only way to settle this dispute is to publicly declare independence from Great Britain."	B. "Small islands, not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects of kingdoms to take under their care, but there is something very absurd in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island."
"Even if Britain were the 'mother country' of America, that made her actions all the more formidable, for no mother would harm her children so brutally."	C. "To challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation to show a single advantage that this continent can reap by being connected with Great Britain... repeat the challenge, not a single advantage is derived. Our own will fetch its price in any market in Europe..."
"There is no economic advantage from being connected with Great Britain. Our goods will be able to be sold throughout the rest of Europe."	D. "For America THE LIES IS HERE, for as in absolute governments the King is law, so in these countries the law ought to be King, and there ought to be no other. But one way it can should afterwards arise, let the crown at the conclusion of the ceremony be demolished, and scattered among the people whose right it is."
"We do not need a king who abuses his power to make laws for us. In the free country of America our law is most important. Let's destroy the idea that a king should abuse us or rights."	E. "Nothing but Independence... can keep the peace of the continent... A government of our own is our natural right... it is infinitely wiser and safer, to form a constitution of our own in a cool and deliberate manner, while we have it in our power."
"The independence of America is a natural right that will keep peace in the continent. We have the right to make our own rules."	F. "...although it may appear to some, or however unwilling they may be to think so, matters not, but many strong and lasting reasons may be given to show that nothing can settle our affairs so expeditiously as an open and determined declaration for independence."

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Answer key Thomas Paine Common Sense worksheet answers are crucial for students and educators alike when analyzing one of the most significant pamphlets in American history. "Common Sense," published in 1776, played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion regarding independence from British rule. This article will delve into the content of "Common Sense," its historical context, the importance of the worksheet in understanding its themes, and the significance of answer keys in educational settings.

Understanding "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine

Historical Context

"Common Sense" was published during a time of growing discontent among the American colonies. The Thirteen Colonies were increasingly frustrated with British governance, particularly in light of unfair taxation, lack of representation, and restrictive trade practices. Paine's pamphlet emerged at a crucial juncture, providing a clear, accessible argument for independence and self-governance.

Key Themes of "Common Sense"

Paine's work encompasses several themes that are essential for understanding the push for independence:

1. Critique of Monarchy: Paine argues against the legitimacy of monarchy and hereditary succession, stating that such systems are inherently flawed and unjust.
2. Advocacy for Independence: He emphasizes the necessity for the colonies to break free from British rule, arguing that it is the only way to ensure liberty and justice.
3. Call for Unity: Paine urges the colonies to unite in their struggle for independence, highlighting the strength of collective action.
4. Rationale for Self-Government: Paine presents a compelling case for self-governance, asserting that the colonies have the ability to create a fair and just political system.

Importance of Worksheets in Education

Role of Worksheets in Learning

Worksheets are valuable educational tools that reinforce learning and comprehension. In the context of "Common Sense," worksheets serve several purposes:

- Encouraging Critical Thinking: Worksheets prompt students to analyze Paine's arguments and consider their implications.
- Facilitating Discussion: They can be used to spark discussions in the classroom, allowing students to share their interpretations and perspectives.
- Assessing Understanding: Educators can gauge students' comprehension of the text through targeted questions and activities.

Components of a Typical "Common Sense" Worksheet

A well-structured worksheet on "Common Sense" may include the following components:

1. Reading Comprehension Questions: Questions that focus on key passages and themes within the text.
2. Vocabulary Exercises: Definitions and contextual usage of significant terms used by Paine.
3. Discussion Prompts: Open-ended questions that encourage deeper reflection on the text's relevance to contemporary issues.
4. Historical Analysis: Tasks that require students to connect the ideas in "Common Sense" to broader historical events and movements.

Using Answer Keys Effectively

Benefits of Answer Keys

Answer keys for "Common Sense" worksheets provide significant benefits for both teachers and students:

- Immediate Feedback: Students can check their responses against the answer key, allowing for immediate correction and understanding of mistakes.

- Guided Learning: Teachers can use answer keys to guide classroom discussions, ensuring that important concepts are covered.
- Standardized Assessment: Answer keys provide a standardized way to assess student understanding, making grading more efficient.

Common Answer Key Elements

An effective answer key for a "Common Sense" worksheet may include:

1. Correct Answers to Comprehension Questions: Clear indications of the correct responses to questions related to the text.
2. Explanations for Key Themes: Brief explanations of why certain answers are correct, helping students to grasp underlying concepts.
3. Sample Responses for Discussion Prompts: Suggested answers or ideas that students might consider when answering open-ended questions.

Examples of Worksheet Questions and Answers

Sample Questions

Here are a few examples of common questions that might appear on a "Common Sense" worksheet, along with their corresponding answers:

1. Question: What is Thomas Paine's main argument in "Common Sense"?
- Answer: Paine argues that the American colonies should seek independence from British rule because monarchy is an unjust form of government and self-governance is the ideal.
2. Question: How does Paine view the idea of monarchy?
- Answer: Paine criticizes monarchy as an institution that is based on arbitrary power and is detrimental to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
3. Question: What role does Paine believe the colonists should take in their pursuit of freedom?
- Answer: Paine believes the colonists should unite and actively fight for their independence, as it is their right to establish a government that represents their interests.

Discussion Prompts and Sample Answers

Discussion prompts can provide a platform for deeper engagement with the text. Here are a few examples:

1. Prompt: Discuss the relevance of Paine's arguments in today's political climate.
- Sample Answer: Paine's arguments about the importance of self-governance and the dangers of unchecked power resonate today as citizens advocate for transparency and accountability in government.
2. Prompt: How does Paine address the fears of independence?

- Sample Answer: Paine acknowledges the fears surrounding independence but argues that the potential for freedom and self-determination far outweighs the risks of remaining under British rule.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the answer key for the Thomas Paine "Common Sense" worksheet is an essential tool for educators and students. It enhances the learning experience by providing clarity, promoting critical thinking, and facilitating meaningful discussions about one of the foundational texts of American independence. Understanding the content of "Common Sense" not only enriches students' knowledge of history but also empowers them to draw connections between past and present, fostering a greater appreciation for the principles of democracy and self-governance. By utilizing worksheets and answer keys effectively, educators can inspire a new generation to engage with the ideas that shaped the nation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main argument presented in Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense'?

The main argument of 'Common Sense' is that the American colonies should seek independence from British rule, advocating for self-governance and the creation of a democratic republic.

How does Paine address the concept of monarchy in 'Common Sense'?

Paine criticizes monarchy as an illegitimate form of government, arguing that it is based on hereditary succession and is contrary to the principles of liberty and equality.

What role did 'Common Sense' play in the American Revolution?

Published in 1776, 'Common Sense' galvanized public opinion in favor of independence, helping to inspire the colonies to break away from British rule and pursue self-determination.

What are some key themes explored in the 'Common Sense' worksheet?

Key themes include the arguments for independence, the critique of British governance, the importance of democracy, and the call for a fair and just government representing the people's will.

How does Paine argue against the idea of reconciliation with Britain?

Paine argues that reconciliation would only prolong suffering and that the colonies must fully break free to establish their own government and protect their rights.

What impact did 'Common Sense' have on colonial attitudes towards independence?

The pamphlet significantly shifted public opinion, making the idea of independence more accessible and appealing to the general populace, thus uniting them in the cause against British rule.

How can students analyze the effectiveness of Paine's arguments in 'Common Sense'?

Students can analyze Paine's use of rhetorical devices, emotional appeals, and logical reasoning, as well as the historical context of the time, to assess how effectively he convinced readers to support independence.

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Unlock your understanding of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" with our detailed answer key. Find worksheet answers and enhance your learning. Learn more!

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