Basic US History

Unit 2 – The American Revolution

Declaration of Independence Questions

1. What does the Declaration of Independence mean when it says that a government should be run with the “consent of the governed?”

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2. What does the Declaration of Independence say people should be able to do if the government violates their rights?

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3. Jefferson mentions the rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence; what does each of these rights mean?

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4. Jefferson said these rights were “unalienable.” What does this mean?

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5. Jefferson wrote that “All men are created equal” but slavery existed in the colonies at that time. How do these two ideas conflict?

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6. Do you see any contradictions in what people say they believe in and what they do in today’s world?

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