



Handout 3 - “Life, Liberty, and Happiness” Worksheet

This worksheet allows you to assess newly freed African Americans’ access to the basic rights of U.S. citizens as they are described by the Declaration of Independence.

Drawing from the language of the First and Second Confiscation Acts and the Emancipation Proclamation, complete this chart by marking the appropriate boxes next to each basic right. If a specific right on the chart is not mentioned in the document you are reading, use your knowledge of the legal status of African Americans to determine which answer is the most likely. In the line beneath each resource, explain which legal language or fact supports the answer you chose.

Document Name and Date:					
	Very Likely	Possible	Unlikely	Unavail-able	I’m Not Sure
Life					
Clean, fresh water					
Adequate shelter					
Wood or coal for warmth					
Cloth, yarn, thread, needles and buttons with which to make clothes					
Liberty					
Free to travel at will					
Able to earn a living					
Ability to participate in democracy					
Able to own property					
Pursuit of Happiness					
Able to assemble freely					
Able to live with partner and/or in family units					