

Name _____

Date _____

We the People

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain owned 13 colonies in the “New World”—that is, America. However, in 1776, the United States officially announced its separation from Britain with the Declaration of Independence. Britain didn’t want to give the colonies up, but in 1783, the United States won the Revolutionary War. It was its own country at last. Now the new country needed a new government. The revolutionary leaders didn’t want a system like England’s, with a king or queen holding much of the power. Instead, they thought people should govern themselves. This idea is known as self-government.

Why didn’t revolutionary leaders want a king or queen to rule America?

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| A. They felt that kings and queens didn’t have enough power. | B. They believed the American people should govern themselves. |
| C. They hoped to one day be back under British rule. | D. They felt that a king or queen would give too much power to the people. |
2. In 1787, a group of American leaders came together to craft a set of rules for the new government. These leaders are known as America’s Founding Fathers. The set of rules they created is called the Constitution. It remains the law of the land today. One of the most important ideas in the Constitution is that ordinary citizens have the right to participate in decisions that affect the country. One way to do this is by voting in elections. When we vote, we are giving our consent for the leaders we choose to make certain decisions for us.

The main idea of this passage is that voting lets citizens take part in government—an important idea of the Constitution. Which of the following details does NOT support this main idea?

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| A. “One of the most important ideas in the Constitution is that ordinary citizens have the right to participate in decisions that affect the country.” | B. “The set of rules [the Founding Fathers] created is called the Constitution.” |
| C. “When we vote, we are giving our consent for the leaders we choose to make certain decisions for us.” | D. “One way to [participate in decisions] is by voting in elections.” |

3. The Founding Fathers created the Constitution in 1787. But they couldn't predict the future. They knew life would change in ways they couldn't even imagine. Rules made in 1787 might not work so well in 1887, 1987, or 2087. So the Founding Fathers made rules for amending, or changing, the Constitution. By 1992, the Constitution had been amended 27 times. The 13th Amendment, which was added in 1865, outlawed slavery. The 19th Amendment, added in 1920, gave women the right to vote.

Based on this passage, what inference can you make?

- A. When America became an independent country, all enslaved people were freed.
- B. Slavery was against the law until 1992.
- C. The Founding Fathers did not make slavery against the law.
- D. The Founding Fathers outlawed slavery.