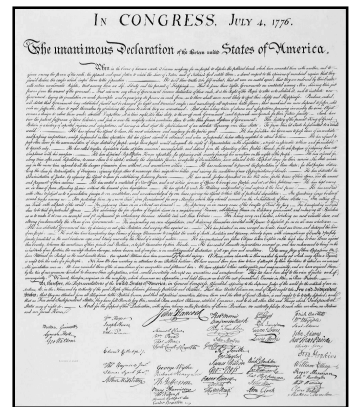


Another View of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"

Read these facts* about Thomas Jefferson with a partner. Talk about the questions. Share your answers with the class.



1. Almost _ of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were slave owners.

2. At the time Thomas Jefferson was writing the words "all men are created equal", he owned 175 African American men, women, and children as slaves. By 1822 he had 267 enslaved people working on his plantation and in his famous home at Monticello.



3. Like Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry was a wealthy Virginia planter and slave owner. What was Patrick Henry most famous for?



4. Patrick Henry never freed any of his slaves, even at his death.

5. Of the hundreds of slaves he owned, Thomas Jefferson freed 3 during his life, and 5 more at his death. All of them were his own blood relatives.

How can we explain Jefferson's and other Founding Fathers' acceptance and practice of slavery, when we also know them as defenders of liberty?

After thinking about these facts, how do you feel about the U.S. and its history?

Do you think these facts are important to talk about today? Why or why not?

*From Lowe, J., Lies my Teacher Told me

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