

SELF-EVIDENT
The Truths That Built a Nation
Young Explorers Edition • Grades Three through Six

LESSON SIX

“Rights No One Can Take”

The Words We Are Studying

“... *certain unalienable Rights* ...”

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

The Big Idea

Some rights are so much a part of you that they can never be taken away, and you cannot even give them away yourself. They are yours because God made you.

Words to Know

Unalienable. A big word that means it cannot be taken away or given up. It stays with you no matter what.

Belong. To be truly yours. Your rights belong to you because God gave them to you.

Protect. To keep something safe. One job of a good government is to protect people’s rights.

What It Means

The Founders used a very special word: unalienable. It is hard to say (try it: un-AY-lee-en-uh-bull), but the meaning is powerful. It means a right that can never be taken away.

It means even more than that. It means you cannot even give these rights away yourself. They are so much a part of who you are that they always stay with you.

The Founders also used the word certain. They did not say we have endless rights. They said we have certain rights, the special ones that come from God, like the right to live and the right to be free.

A Picture to Help You Remember

Think about your shadow on a sunny day. No matter where you go, your shadow goes with you. You cannot hand your shadow to someone else, and no one can steal it. It is part of you.

Your unalienable rights are a little like that shadow. They go with you everywhere because they are part of who God made you to be. No one can take them, and you cannot give them away.

What a Founder Said

“Every natural right not expressly given up . . . remains.”

— Samuel Adams, The Rights of the Colonists, 1772

In plain words: You keep all the rights God gave you, unless you choose to give one up. And the most important ones, you cannot give up at all.

Why It Matters for You

Knowing your rights cannot be taken away helps you stand tall. Even if someone treats you unfairly, they cannot change the fact that God made you valuable and free.

It also reminds you that everyone else has these same rights, so you should never try to take away someone else’s freedom or treat them as less than they are.

Let’s Talk About It

1. What does the word unalienable mean?
2. Why can’t your most important rights be taken away, even by a powerful person?
3. How is your shadow a good picture of an unalienable right?
4. How does knowing your rights cannot be taken away help you feel brave?

Try This

On a sunny day (or with a flashlight), look at your shadow. Notice how it stays with you. Say out loud: “God gave me rights that stay with me too, and no one can take them away.”

A Verse to Remember

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)