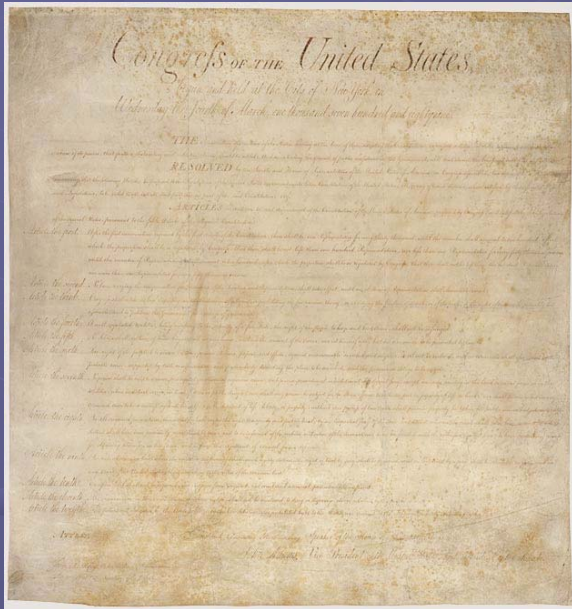


Equality: Are Some
More Equal than
Others?

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

Orwell, G. (2004). *Animal farm*. New York: Signet.

United States Bill of Rights



1. Right to freedom of speech
2. Right to keep and bear arms
3. Right to consent for quartering of soldiers
4. Right against unlawful search and seizure
5. Right against double jeopardy, right not to testify against yourself and to due process
6. Right to a speedy trial, to be informed of charges, and to confront accusers
7. Right to a trial by jury
8. Right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment
9. Rights not limited to these
10. Other powers reserved to states

In spite of the Bill of Rights,
millions of Americans have had
to struggle to obtain equal
rights.

Native Americans

The Removal Act of May 28, 1830, provided for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi.



"Trail of Tears" painting by Robert Lindneux in the Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville, Oklahoma

African Americans



The Illustrated London News, 1856. In J.C. Furnas, *Goodbye to Uncle Tom*, 1956, p. 278d.

In *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, the Supreme Court declared that slaves were property and not citizens of any state or of the United States.

Women

After a long struggle, women in the United States finally received the right to vote in 1926.



Children



Children often worked in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. In 1938, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Law that required employers to pay a minimum wage to children and limited the working age to 16 and older.

Human Rights Struggles Around the World



Political Prisoners

In many countries, people are imprisoned, even tortured and killed, for their political beliefs.



Refugees

Many people are often forced to flee their homes because of war or other violence.



In this unit, we will study the following questions:

- How has the definition of human rights changed throughout history?
- Why does the definition of human rights vary among different cultures and countries?
- What are ways in which individuals influence public policy on human rights issues?
- What political, social, and cultural conditions promote equality among humans?
- What issues related to human rights might become significant in the future?

Essential Question

Whose responsibility is it to create the conditions that promote equal rights for all?