

Benchmark: 3 a



Brief Constructed Response Prompt: Why might property rights be viewed as essential protections for American citizens? Use an example to support your answer.

Possible Response(s): Students may offer a variety of plausible responses.

Property rights limit what government can do to individuals. Without these limits, people would be subject to the will of government. If government owned all of the land in the United States, it could deny people the freedom to purchase a home, use it the way they want to, and force them to move without reason. The more limits there are on government, the more freedom an individual has.

Without the protection, the government could take control of your house/property and state that it be used to board soldiers, the grounds for their training, and your crops for their food without payment or compensation. This is one reason we fought to guarantee our ability to own/claim property and use it however we see fit.

Rubric

- 2 = This response gives a valid reason with accurate and relevant example.
- 1 = This response gives a valid reason with inaccurate, irrelevant, or no example.
- 0 = inaccurate or no response