

Reading: What Opportunities Did This Colonial Farmer Enjoy?

One farmer who wrote about his life in the colonies was Philip Taylor. Read what he wrote. Work with a partner to answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.

We now have a comfortable dwelling. We have two acres of land planted with potatoes, corn, and melons. I have two hogs, one ewe (sheep) and her lamb. The price of cows in the spring was high as 33 dollars. No doubt, I have one by fall.

I am living God's noble and free soil, neither am I slave to others...I have now been on American soil for two and one-half years and I have not been compelled to pay for the privilege of living. Neither is my cap worn out from lifting it in the presence of gentlemen.

Questions:

1. *What did Philip Taylor like about life in America?*
2. *What rights did he enjoy?*
3. *Do you think he would favor a law that does not permit people to buy or sell what they choose? Why?*
4. *Do you think he would favor a law that gives people rights because of their family or the group to which they belong? Why?*
5. *What did he mean when he said, "Neither is my cap worn out from lifting it in the presence of gentlemen?"*