

Denied Justice Answer Key

Expected Rights Scott Sought

- The right to be recognized as a **free man** because he lived in free territory
- The right to **citizenship and legal protection** under U.S. law
- The right to **sue in federal court**
- The right to **live without being considered property**

How the Ruling Denied Them

- Supreme Court ruled that African Americans were **not considered citizens**
- Said that enslaved people were **property**, not individuals with rights
- Declared Scott **could not sue** in federal court
- Stated Congress could not **ban slavery in the territories**, limiting the freedom he sought

Reflection Expectations

- Student explains how the ruling pushed the nation further apart on the issue of slavery and denied basic human rights.

Note: Wording may vary, but concepts must be historically accurate.

Teacher's Guide

- Review key vocabulary before starting: "citizenship," "federal court," "property," "territories."
- Model one chart entry together as a class to show expectations.
- Offer time for pair or small-group discussion before independent responses.

Differentiation

- Support: Provide sentence starters such as "Scott believed he should have the right to..."
- Challenge: Ask students to connect the ruling to another historical event leading to the Civil War.