



Le Roy Libeta
de la lib. Libenda

CREATING THE DECLARATION OF INDPENDENCE

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Declaration of Independence

Standards:

- ALCOS.2010.5.8
- ALCOS.2010.10.3
- ALCOS.2010.12G.2

Objectives:

- I can explain why the Declaration of Independence was written.
- I can explain the structure of the Declaration of Independence.
- I can provide background information that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

Contents:

- Presentation Link
- Notes to assist the teacher
- Graphic Organizer for Students

The link below will bring you to a presentation that is corresponds with the attached notes.

[Click here!](#)

Declaration of Independence

2. Declaration of Independence Painting

- Thoughts?

3. Timeline of Events

- 1760s-1770s
 - French and Indian War
 - Taxes
 - Boston Massacre & Tea Party
 - Lexington and Concord

BEFORE SLIDE FLIP ----> WHAT DOES KING GEORGE III THINK?

4. King George acknowledges the issues in the colonies

- Thoughts?

5. Why should a tiny island across the sea regulate the price of tea?

6. Common Sense

- Thomas Paine arrived in America from England in 1774 to an angry 13 colonies
- January 10, 1776 - *Common Sense* is published.
- Key Points of CS:
 - The Government should serve the people.
 - Having a divine monarchy doesn't work.
 - America has a rare opportunity to create a new nation based on self rule.
 - A strong central government is needed.
- Jefferson praised Paine as one of the best writers of the revolution era.

7. Declaration Timeline

8. Lee Resolution

- The Lee Resolution is introduced to the 2nd Continental Congress on June 7, 1776 and calls for three things: declaring independence, creating foreign alliances, and creating a confederation (government).
- On June 11, 1776, three committees are formed to address those three areas - Declaration of Independence, Foreign Alliances, & the Articles of Confederation.
- Congress discusses passing the Lee Resolution to declare independence but tables it for the next session.

9. Digging into the Declaration

16. Details

1. Lee returned to Virginia due to his wife's health and returned later to sign the Declaration.
2. Thomas Jefferson replaces Peyton Randolph, his cousin, when Randolph is called back to Virginia to serve in the House of Burgesses.
3. Adams claimed Thomas Jefferson was more popular and a better writer.
4. 2 paragraphs and 21 lines were eliminated totaling 86 changes to the document between the edits made by the Committee of 5 and Congress. Language that could be considered offensive to England and a grievance concerning enslavement were removed.
5. Jefferson's inspiration came from the Virginia Constitution, Virginia Declaration of Rights, and John Locke's ideas on enlightenment.
6. Jefferson had 17 days to compose the Declaration of Independence, but is believed to only have used 1-2 days.
7. The Declaration of Independence is not a law, but it is a legal document. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
8. Yes, this was treason as they were rejecting Mother England. The names of the signers were not released until January 18, 1777. John Hancock was the only one who signed the document on July 4. There is some debate over when the rest signed the document. Some say it was signed on August 2 by all but 1. Some say that 6 signers did not sign it that day and took the next year to get their signatures.
9. John Adams thought July 2 would be Independence Day since that was the day they voted on the Lee Resolution and independence was declared. The final text of the Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4 and became Independence Day.

10-11. Signers & Signing Room

12-15 - Document itself. Refer to next page.

16. LOOK ABOVE.

17. Rush quote on treason and environment on signing day

18. T. Jefferson Ledger

- What do you notice about this ledger? [Addition of June 31]
- Jefferson had a normal day on 7/4 and purchased a thermometer and 7 pairs of women's gloves

19. Jefferson's Grave

- Adams and Jefferson died on the same day --> the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence
 - They were also good friends, but had been at odds for many years and had recently mended their friendship.
- This is not the original stone. The original marker is located at the University of Missouri and was sent there in 1883 in disrepair. The descendants of Jefferson sent it there - some believe it was because this was the first University in the Louisiana Territory.
- Notice what is missing on Jefferson's grave? His Presidency is not listed as one of his greatest accomplishments. Jefferson left specific instructions as to what would be listed on his grave and how the stone was to be made and his presidency was not listed.

Declaration of Independence

Slide 12: Preamble

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

- Sometimes it becomes necessary for a group to declare their independence, but they should respectfully lay out all the reasons why they are declaring this independence.

Slide 13: Declaration of Natural Rights

- Everyone has natural rights.
- The government should protect these rights.
- If the government does not protect those natural rights, they can be abolished but NOT hastily changed.
- When the government continually violates these rights, go for the changes, BUT human history has shown us that many would rather live under a cruel government than change it.

Slide 14: 27 Grievances

2. No self government in the colonies

8. Refers to the Intolerable Acts - colonies could not elect their own judges. Instead Parliament appointed judges.

9. Because Parliament appointed judges, King George III paid their salaries instead of the colony itself and colonists feared that judges could not be impartial.

12. After the Boston Tea Party, King George III appointed General Gage, the Commander in Chief of the British Forces in America, as Governor of Massachusetts and used those forces to enforce the laws.

16. Navigation Acts were put into place in the 1660s and not strongly enforced until the 1760s when tensions started to rise.

- Shipping
 - Only English or colonial ships could transport goods between England and the colonies.
- Colonial products
 - Certain colonial products, such as sugar, indigo, tobacco, rice, and molasses, could only be shipped directly to England, Ireland, or another English colony. These products were called "enumerated".
- European goods
 - After 1664, English colonies could only receive European goods through England

The colonists saw these regulations as restrictive and could cause issues with their smuggling operations. John Hancock was accused of smuggling and his ship was impounded by the British in May of 1768. John Adams defended him and the charges were later dropped.

17. This grievance concerns taxation without representation. Colonists believed that they should only be able to tax themselves.

23. October of 1775 - King George III declares the colonies to be in open rebellion and British forces were sent to put the rebellion down. Would this have been considered an act of war?

Slide 15: Resolution of Independence by the United States

"In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

- We have asked for these actions to stop, but have been ignored over and over again. A ruler who acts this way is unfit.

"...and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do."

- As independent states, we can declare war, make peace, build alliances, establish our own trade agreements, and do everything else independent states can.

The Declaration of Independence

American Village Citizenship Trust

"The New England Governments are in a state of rebellion...and blows must decide whether they are to be subject to this country or independent"

King George III to Lord North
November 18, 1774

"We have every opportunity and every encouragement before us, to form the noblest purest constitution on the face of the earth. We have it in our power to begin the world over again."

Thomas Paine
Common Sense

"Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

The Lee Resolution

The Document Itself

Preamble

Declaration of Natural Rights

Grievances

Resolution of Independence

Your Notes



Draft of the Declaration of Independence before edits

Text of the Declaration of Independence

