Declaration of Endenderace





resource information

Standards:

- ALCOS.2010.SS.10.3
- ALCOS.2010.SS.12G.2

Objectives:

- I can explain the structure of the Declaration of Independence.
- I can explain the signficance of the different sections of the Declaration of Independence.

Background Information:

- National Parks Service Declaration House
- National Archives Declaration of Independence: A History
- National Archives What does it say?
- <u>Library of Congress Jefferson's Rough Draft</u>

Suggested Reading:

- For Adults
 - American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence Pauline Maier
 - The Pursuit of Happiness Jeffrey Rosen
- For Students
 - What is the Declaration of Independence? Michael C. Harris
 - o The Declaration of Independence (A True Book: American History) Elaine Landau



lesson plan

Engage:

- Bell Ringer
 - What do you already know about the Declaration of Independence?

Explore:

- Investigate the Declaration of Independence Annotation Pages Provided
 - o Provide students with a transcript of the document
 - Allow them to work in groups or individually to annotate what stands out to them.
 - Mount Vernon's Transcript

Explain:

- What are the four parts of the Declaration of Independence?
 - Preamble
 - o Declaration of Natural Rights
 - Grievances
 - Resolution of Independence
- What is the significance of each section?

Elaborate:

- Questions Worksheet Provided
 - What is the point of view of the Founders and describe some of the basic assumptions that allow their argument?
 - What do the Founders claim was the MAIN reason they were declaring independence? It is in the second paragraph. Underline it and paraphrase it – what does it mean? What does it mean to us today and is it the same or different from 1776? Explain.
 - Why do you think they submitted "facts to a candid world"?
 - What is the final claim in the document?
 - What can you infer from the Declaration about what kind of new government the colonies would have if they won? Why do you think so? Give examples

lesson plan

Evaluate:

• Suggested: Assess questions worksheet

Extend:

• Writing: Complete the I Declare Lesson Plan from American Village!

"The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, 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.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

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"He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large	
districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of	
Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and	
formidable to tyrants only.	
He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual,	
uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public	
Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with	
his measures.	
He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing	
with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.	
He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause	
others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of	
Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise;	
the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of	
invasion from without, and convulsions within.	
He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for	
that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners;	
refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and	
raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.	
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his	
Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.	
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of	
their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.	
He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms	
of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.	
He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without	
the Consent of our legislatures.	
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior	
to the Civil power.	
He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to	
our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent	
to their Acts of pretended Legislation:	
For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:	
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any	
Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these	
States:	
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:	
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:	
For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:"	

"For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences	U
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring	
Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging	
its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit	
instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:	
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and	
altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:	
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves	
invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.	
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his	
Protection and waging War against us.	
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and	
destroyed the lives of our people.	
He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to	
compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun	
with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the	
most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized	
nation.	
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high	
Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners	
of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.	
He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has	
endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the	
merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an	
undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.	
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.	
Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We	
have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature	
to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded	
them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We	
have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have	
conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these	
usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and	
correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and	
of consanguinity "	

"We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, 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; 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. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

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2.What do the Founders claim was the MAIN reason they were declaring independence? It is in the second paragraph. Underline it and paraphrase it – what does it mean? What does it mean to us today and is it the same or different from 1776? Explain.

3. Why do you think they submitted "facts to a candid world"?

4. What is the final claim in the document?

5. What can you infer from the Declaration about what kind of new government the colonies would have if they won? Why do you think so? Give examples