

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Declaration of Independence



**AMERICAN
VILLAGE**
CITIZENSHIP TRUST™

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 significance 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?](#)
- [Library of Congress - Jefferson's Rough Draft](#)

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
 - *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
 - 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
 - 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

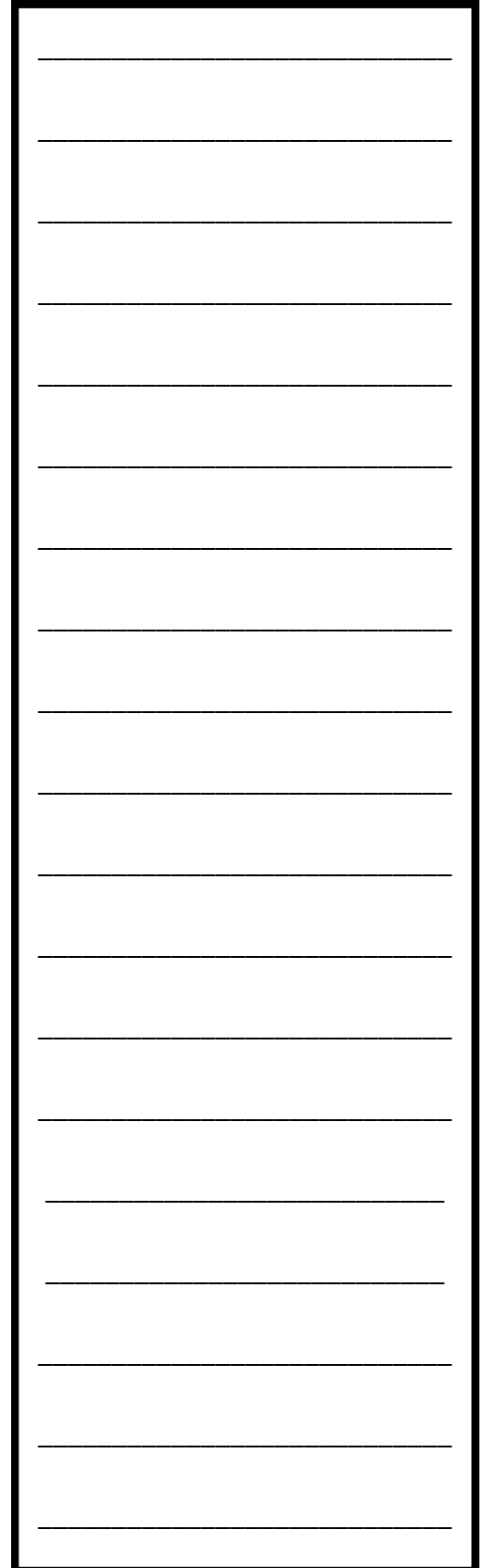
Extend:

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

Declaration of Independence

"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."



Declaration of Independence

1. What is the point of view of the Founders and describe some of the basic assumptions that allow their argument?

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