

WHAT IS THE
*Declaration
of Independence?*



AMERICAN
VILLAGE
CITIZENSHIP TRUST™

resource information

Standards:

- ALCOS.2010.SS.2.1
 - Relate principles of American democracy to the founding of the nation
 - Recognizing basic principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the establishment of the three branches of government, and the Emancipation Proclamation.
- ALCOS.2010.SS.3.10
 - Recognize functions of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Objectives:

- ALCOS.2010.SS.2.1
 - I can explain why the Declaration of Independence was created and its basic structure.
- ALCOS.2010.SS.3.10
 - I can explain the importance of the Declaration of Independence and its contents as well as the structure of the document.

Contents:

- Page 3 - 2nd Grade Level Text and Text Evidence Activity
- Page 4 - 3rd Grade Level Text and Text Evidence Activity
- Pages 5-6 - Writing Activity

WHAT IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

In the 1770s, England and the colonists living in America were not getting along. England did not want to give the colonists a voice or a vote in big decisions. A war started in 1775 over these problems.

After a year of war, a group of men were sent from their colonies to make decisions for the Americans. The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. The men discussed freedom from England and a small group of men were given the job of writing the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson is the main writer of the Declaration of Independence. It was approved on July 4, 1776 by Congress. Every year, many Americans celebrate independence from England on July 4th!

DIRECTIONS: EACH QUESTION IS MATCHED TO A COLOR. HIGHLIGHT YOUR TEXT EVIDENCE USING THAT COLOR.



Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?



What is celebrated on July 4th every year?



Where did the Congress meet?



When was the Declaration of Independence approved?



Why did the colonists wanted to separate from England?

WHAT IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

In the 1770s, the colonists living in America were tired of unfair rules that were given to them by King George III and Parliament in England. The colonists wanted a voice or a vote in Parliament and had been asking for it for years. A war started in April 1775 between England and the Americans.

After a year of war, a group of men were sent from their colonies to make decisions for the Americans. The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. Richard Henry Lee, a Virginian, brought his thoughts on independence to Congress and a small group of men were given the job of creating the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson is the main author of the Declaration of Independence. It was approved on July 4, 1776 by Congress. Every year, many Americans celebrate independence from England on July 4th!

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NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS: DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR 4TH OF JULY AND WRITE A SENTENCE ABOUT IT.



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