



Declaration of Independence

Analysis

Aim

What did the Declaration of Independence actually declare?

Primary Source: Declaration of Independence

Preamble

<p>1 We hold these truths to be <i>self-evident</i>, that all men are 2 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with 3 certain <i>unalienable</i> Rights, that among these are Life, 4 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure 5 these rights, governments are <i>instituted</i> among men, 6 deriving their just powers from the <i>consent</i> of the 7 governed, --That whenever any form of government 8 becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the 9 People to alter or to <i>abolish</i> it, and to <i>institute</i> new 10 Government, laying its foundation on such principles and 11 organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem 12 most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...</p>	<p>1) What are the three unalienable rights [lines 3 and 4] listed in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence? a) b) c)</p> <p>2) The writers of the Declaration of Independence wrote that “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed” [lines 5 - 7] What does this mean in terms of how or where governments get power from?</p> <p>3) Which enlightenment philosopher/thinker influenced the ideas expressed in questions 1 and 2?</p> <p>4) According to the preamble, when do people have the right to abolish their government [lines 8 - 9]?</p>
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary:</p> <p>Self-evident: obvious Unalienable: that which can't be taken away or denied Abolish: to end or overthrow Institute: to start or make official Consent: to give approval</p> </div>	

Grievances

1 Wisdom, indeed, will *dictate* that governments long
2 established should not be changed for light and simple
3 causes;... But when a long train of *abuses*...reduce the
4 people to live under absolute *despotism*, it is their right, it is
5 their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new
6 protection for their future security. — Such has been the
7 patient suffering of these colonies... The history of the
8 present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries
9 and he has as a direct resulted established an absolute
10 *tyranny* over these states.

11
12 To prove this, let facts be submitted to the world.

- 13 ● He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing
- 14 armies without the consent of our legislature
- 15 ● He has allowed the military to act independent of any
- 16 laws, doing as they please to reign terror over our us
- 17 ● He has cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;
- 18 ● He imposes taxes on us without our consent;
- 19 ● He deprives us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial
- 20 by jury...and instead throws us in jail or sentences
- 21 colonists to death
- 22 ● He has not recognized our government here
- 23 ● He has stolen our resources from our seas, ravaged
- 24 our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the
- 25 lives of our people...
- 26

Vocabulary:

Dictate: to command

Abuses: treat violently over and over again

Despot: ruler with total power usually uses power cruelly

Tyranny: cruel government

Grievance: reasons for protest

1) According to lines 1 - 7, why have the colonists chosen to declare independence?

2) Why would the colonists list their grievances out in this document?

Denunciation

<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p>	<p>In every stage of these <i>Oppressions</i> We have Petitioned for help....Our repeated <i>Petitions</i> have been answered only by repeated injury and abuse. 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 reminded them of the circumstances and reasons of our settlement here...They too have been deaf to the voice of justice... We must, therefore...which announce our Separation from Great Britain</p> <p>We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America... do.... declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are separated 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary:</p> <p>Oppressions: cruel treatment over a long period of time Petition: to write a list of requests & explain the reasons for these requests in a document; usually it is presented to a government</p>	<p>1) According to lines 1 - 3, what have colonists done before this Declaration of Independence to address their concerns?</p> <p>2) According to lines 11-16, which of the following is true? <i>Circle the best answer below.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Colonies are now separated from Great Britainb) Colonies now declare war on Great Britain <p>3) After having examined this source - why do you think this document is called the “Declaration of Independence”?</p>
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