

The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription

(Underlining not included in the original Declaration)

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

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.

[Note: The original document lists 27 abuses by King George toward the Colonists. Listed below are the eleven explained in *George v George*, p.36.]

He has refused his Assent to Laws,

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly ...

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; ... refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, ...

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, ... 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:

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 ...

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, ... 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, ...

[End of facts.]

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 British 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.

Name _____

Democratic Principles and Ideals of the Declaration of Independence

Below are quotes from the Declaration of Independence that explain the beliefs and ideas it states. Read the quotes then explain the idea in your own words.

Quotes from The Declaration of Independence	What it Means in Your Own Words
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776. 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, ... 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 [all men] 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,	
We, ..., the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, ... 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 [the Colonies] 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;	

Answer this question using information you read in the book, *George vs George*.

There were two reasons why the Colonists wrote the Declaration of Independence. How would announcing the Declaration help with fighting the Revolutionary War?

Democratic Principles and Ideals of the Declaration of Independence - Answer Key

Answers will vary:

1 point for each correct interpretation 2 points for the last question Total - 10 points

Quotes from The Declaration of Independence	What it Means in Your Own Words
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,	The Declaration was made in Congress on July 4, 1776 and everyone voted for it.
When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, ... they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.	When it becomes necessary for a group of people to break their ties to another country, they should explain why they're doing it.
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,	We believe 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.	Their God gave them the right to life, liberty and to search for happiness.
That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,	Governments are made to protect men's right to life, liberty and happiness. The government gets their power from the people.
--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,	Whenever a government doesn't protect the rights, the people can change or get rid of that government and create a new one.
We, ..., the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, ... 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;	The Representatives in Congress declare that the United Colonies are free from England and are independent states.
that they [the colonies] 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 Colonies no longer have to be loyal to the British King and there is no longer a political connection to them.

How would announcing the Declaration help with fighting the Revolutionary War?

Answer must include both concepts for full credit.

The Declaration of Independence helped in fighting the war by (1) uniting the Americans to support the war and by (2) getting help from European countries.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Image of Original 1776 Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

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 this 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 upon a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, 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. — 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 Law for Naturalization of Strangers; 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 harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of peace, standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has endeavored to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has attempted to injure us, by obstructing our Commerce with foreign Nations; prohibiting the Importation of certain Goods and Articles; and imposing Taxes on us without our Consent. — He has attempted to keep among us a standing Army in Times of peace, without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has endeavored to bring the Power of the Sword to bear on the Civil power, by declaring us Outlaws 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 complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Rapidity, 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 endeavored 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 by insult and 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 attention to our British 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 concinnity. 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.

Boston, Greenwich
Lyman Hall,
Geo. Walton.

John Hancock
Joseph Hewes,
John Penn

Edward Rutledge.

Thos. Mifflin
Thomas Lynch Junr.
Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase,
John Adams
Thos. Mifflin
George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Wm. Jefferson
Wm. Harrison
Thos. Mifflin
Charles Braxton

John Hancock
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Taylor
James Wilson
Gt. Mifflin
Casar Rodney
Thos. Mifflin
Abra. Clark

John Jay
John Adams
John Jay
Lewis Morris
John Jay
John Jay
John Jay
John Jay

John Adams
John Adams
John Adams
John Adams
John Adams
John Adams
John Adams
John Adams

Image of 1823 Engraved Declaration of Independence

Student Notes Worksheet

Name _____

Use this chart to take notes as you listen to *George vs George*. You must have **three** ideas for each section.



Impact of George Washington on the Revolutionary War



Contributions of George Washington to the Creation of the American Government



Physical Features and Processes and How They Influenced the Revolutionary War

Example: The Atlantic Ocean was between the two countries and made it more difficult for England to transport supplies and soldiers to the war.

Student Notes Worksheet **Answer Key**

Notes should have any three of the ideas below for each section. Wording may vary. Accept appropriate answers.

Use this chart to take notes as you listen to *George vs George*. You must have **three** ideas for each section.



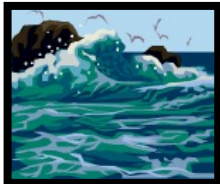
Impact of George Washington on the Revolutionary War

Was elected to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army
Won 3 battles in 10 days that turned the war around
Won the Battle of Trenton
Won the 2nd Battle of Trenton
He was so respected and loved that many soldiers stayed through the bitter cold winter
Won the final battle at Yorktown



Contributions of George Washington to the Creation of the American Government

Chosen president of the Constitutional Convention
Elected the first President of the United States in 1789
Serve two terms as President
Became the role model for all future American Presidents
Kept the US out of a war between Great Britain and France



Physical Features and Processes and How They Influenced the Revolutionary War

Example: The Atlantic Ocean was between the two countries and made it more difficult for England to transport supplies and soldiers to the war.

Rebels built a fort on top of Breed's Hill (Battle of Bunker Hill)
Rebels in bitter cold in Trenton
Rebels crossed ice-choked Delaware River in blinding sleet and snow to make a surprise attack
The winter of 1777-1778 was too cold to fight in America –
Many rebel soldiers froze to death at Valley Forge
Clark and 170 men marched 18 days through a flooded river of ice water to surprise and capture a fort

Chart Directions

1. Create a chart illustrating the physical features and processes that influenced the Revolutionary War. (1 pt)
2. Use the notes from the last section of your Student Notes worksheet. (2 pts)
3. Decide how to arrange the information neatly on your paper. (1 pt)
4. Draw pictures that illustrate three physical features or processes and that show how each affected the Revolutionary War. (3 pts)
5. Include a descriptive title that follows the rules for writing titles. (2 pts)
6. Include a descriptive label for each drawing. (3 pts)

Total 15 pts