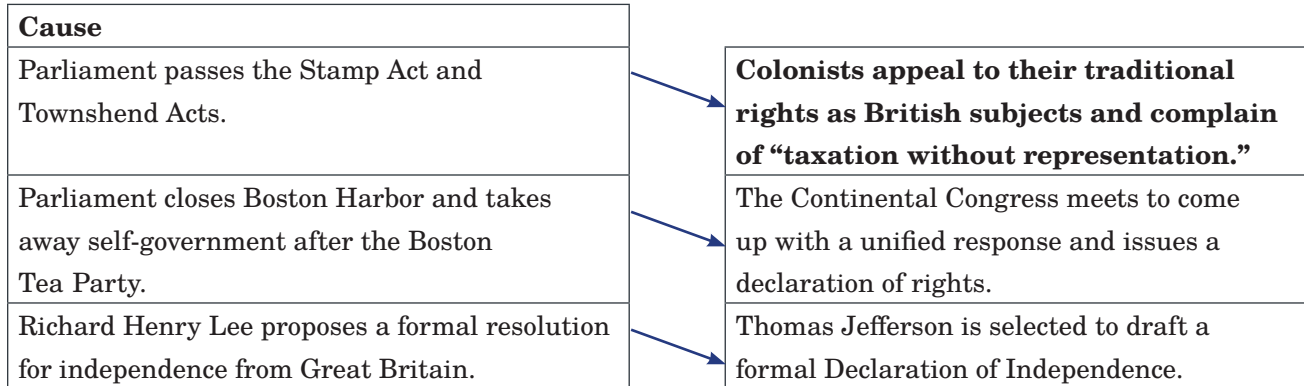


## Lesson 4: The Declaration of Independence

### Answer Key

### Background Essay Graphic Organizer and Questions

#### Part 1: Cause and Effect



#### Part 2: Determining Main Ideas

1. How does the Declaration reflect the influence of John Locke?

*Locke wrote that all people were equal with natural rights. The Declaration adopts Locke’s ideas regarding the state of nature and social compact theory.*


2. List four examples of complaints against King George III that are found in the Declaration.

*Examples include taxing colonists without their consent, dissolving colonial legislatures and charters, cutting off trade, taking away the traditional right to a trial by jury, quartering troops without consent, keeping standing armies in the colonies, waging war against the colonists, and hiring mercenaries to fight the colonists.*

3. The Declaration ends with a promise that the men who signed the document “mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” What does this reveal about the seriousness of the document and what it contained?

*This implies that by signing this document, the men could lose all that they had—their very lives, all their possessions, and their reputations.*

## Declaration Preamble and Grievances Organizer: Version A

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<b>Part One: The Introduction and Preamble</b>			
<b>In this section of the Declaration, the authors were explaining the causes for separating from Great Britain and becoming an independent nation.</b>			
<p>In Congress, July 4, 1776</p> <p>The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to <b>dissolve</b> 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 <b>Laws of Nature</b> and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which <b>impel</b> them to the separation.</p> <p>(lines 1–6)</p>	<p><b>dissolve:</b> get rid of</p> <p><b>Laws of Nature:</b> natural law or the natural order</p> <p><b>impel:</b> urge</p>	<p><b>All 13 colonies want to separate from Great Britain, and the authors will list out the causes that are driving them to make this break.</b></p>	
<p>We hold these truths to be <b>self-evident</b>, that all men are created equal, that they are <b>endowed</b> by their Creator with certain <b>unalienable</b> Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--</p> <p>(lines 7–9)</p>	<p><b>self-evident:</b> obvious</p> <p><b>endowed:</b> given</p> <p><b>unalienable:</b> impossible to take away</p>	<p>All men are born equal and have natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.</p>	<p>Accept reasonable responses in this column.</p>

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>That to secure these rights, Governments are <b>instituted</b> among Men, <b>deriving</b> their just powers from the consent of the governed, (lines 9–10)</p>	<p><b>instituted:</b> established <b>deriving:</b> receiving</p>	<p>Governments should protect natural rights and be based on the consent of the people.</p>	
<p>That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to <b>abolish</b> it, and to <b>institute</b> new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. (lines 10–13)</p>	<p><b>abolish:</b> get rid of <b>institute:</b> set up or establish</p>	<p>When government no longer protects the rights of the people, the people should change or get rid of that government.</p>	
<p><b>Part 2: List of Grievances</b></p>			
<p><b>In this section of the Declaration, the authors listed grievances or complaints against King George III of Great Britain and his government.</b></p>			
<p>The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and <b>usurpations</b>, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a <b>candid</b> world. (lines 20–22)</p>	<p><b>usurpations:</b> abuses of power <b>candid:</b> truthful</p>	<p>The king of Great Britain has acted terribly, and now we will list out examples.</p>	
<p>He has kept among us, in times of peace, <b>Standing Armies</b> without the Consent of our legislatures. (line 47)</p>	<p><b>Standing Armies:</b> armies kept during peace</p>	<p>The king kept an army in the colonies.</p>	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
He has affected to <b>render</b> the Military independent of and superior to the <b>Civil power</b> .  (line 48)	<b>render:</b> to make  <b>Civil power:</b> civilian (nonmilitary) authority	The king favored the military over civilians.	
For <b>Quartering</b> large bodies of armed troops among us:  (line 51)	<b>Quartering:</b> forcing people to house soldiers in their homes	The king allowed soldiers to live in people's houses.	
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:  (line 54)		The king has cut off the colonists' trade.	
For <b>imposing</b> Taxes on us without our Consent:  (line 55)	<b>imposing:</b> forcing	The king taxed without consent.	
For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:  (line 56)		The king has not allowed colonists to have a trial by jury in the colonies.	
He has <b>abdicated</b> Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.  (line 65)	<b>abdicated:</b> abandoned	The king got rid of the colonial legislatures and started a war against the colonists.	
He has <b>plundered</b> our seas, <b>ravaged</b> our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.  (line 67–68)	<b>plundered:</b> looted or stolen  <b>ravaged:</b> devastated	In this war, people's lives and property have been destroyed.	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign <b>Mercenaries</b> to <b>compleat</b> the works of death, desolation and tyranny,  (line 67–68)</p>	<p><b>Mercenaries:</b> hired soldiers  <b>compleat:</b> engage in</p>	<p>The king hired soldiers to fight the colonists, and the soldiers are especially cruel.</p>	
<p>We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the <b>rectitude</b> 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;  (lines 85–88)</p>	<p><b>rectitude:</b> goodness</p>	<p>As representatives of the colonists, the authors declare that they no longer will be a part of Great Britain and will not obey the British king.</p>	

1. Why does this document include a long list of grievances?

*The document is providing evidence that the British government has acted tyrannically to justify declaring independence.*

2. Which section do you think is most important? Why?

*Accept reasonable answers.*

3. As Americans, should we be proud of this document? Explain your answer.

*Encourage students to recognize that the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence are aspirational and inspirational.*

4. What does the Declaration tell the world about the United States?

*The document tells the world that the United States is founded upon principles of equality and liberty.*

5. What examples from the past or present illustrate that the ideals expressed in the Declaration have been faithfully applied? What examples from the past or present illustrate that the ideals expressed in the Declaration are a constant work in progress?

*Possible answers include: electing representatives, granting all men and later all women the right to vote.*

*Possible examples that the ideals were not faithfully applied and are a work in progress include: the existence of slavery, racism, prejudice, discrimination, etc.*


6. What is your role as a young adult in ensuring that the Founding ideals are faithfully applied?

*Accept reasonable answers.*

7. How do you think Founders like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams would like the Fourth of July holiday to be celebrated? After looking at the text of the Declaration of Independence closely in this activity, would you change or add anything to your celebration of the Fourth of July? Explain your answer.

*Accept reasonable answers.*

## Declaration Preamble and Grievances Organizer: Version B

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>In Congress, July 4, 1776</p> <p>The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to <b>dissolve</b> 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 <b>Laws of Nature</b> and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which <b>impel</b> them to the separation.</p> <p>(lines 1–6)</p>	<p><b>dissolve:</b> get rid of</p> <p><b>Laws of Nature:</b> natural law or the natural order</p> <p><b>impel:</b> urge</p>	<p><b>All 13 colonies want to separate from Great Britain, and the authors will list out the causes that are driving them to make this break.</b></p>	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>We hold these truths to be <b>self-evident</b>, that all men are created equal, that they are <b>endowed</b> by their Creator with certain <b>unalienable</b> Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are <b>instituted</b> among Men, <b>deriving</b> their just powers from the consent of the governed,</p> <p>(lines 7–10)</p>	<p><b>self-evident:</b> obvious</p> <p><b>endowed:</b> given</p> <p><b>unalienable:</b> impossible to take away</p> <p><b>instituted:</b> established</p> <p><b>deriving:</b> receiving</p>	<p>All men are born equal and have natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments should protect these rights and be based on the consent of the people.</p>	<p>Accept reasonable responses in this column.</p>
<p>—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to <b>abolish</b> it, and to <b>institute</b> new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.</p> <p>(lines 10–13)</p>	<p><b>abolish:</b> get rid of</p> <p><b>Institute:</b> set up or establish</p>	<p>When government no longer protects the rights of the people, the people should change or get rid of that government.</p>	
<p>The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and <b>usurpations</b>, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a <b>candid</b> world.</p> <p>(lines 20–22)</p>	<p><b>usurpations:</b> abuses of power</p> <p><b>candid:</b> truthful</p>	<p>The king of Great Britain has acted terribly, and now we will list out examples.</p>	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>He has kept among us, in times of peace, <b>Standing Armies</b> without the Consent of our legislatures.</p> <p>He has affected <b>to render</b> the Military independent of and superior to the <b>Civil power</b>.</p> <p>For <b>Quartering</b> large bodies of armed troops among us:</p> <p>For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:</p> <p>(lines 47–53)</p>	<p><b>Standing Armies:</b> armies kept during peace</p> <p><b>render:</b> to make</p> <p><b>Civil power:</b> civilian (nonmilitary) authority</p> <p><b>Quartering:</b> forcing people to house soldiers in their homes</p>	<p>The king kept an army in the colonies, favored the military over civilians, allowed soldiers to live in people's houses, and protected those soldiers when they killed colonists.</p>	
<p>For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:</p> <p>For <b>imposing</b> Taxes on us without our Consent:</p> <p>For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:</p> <p>For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences</p> <p>(lines 54–57)</p>	<p><b>imposing:</b> forcing</p>	<p>The king has hurt trade, has taxed colonists without their consent, and has not allowed colonists to have a trial by jury in the colonies.</p>	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves <b>invested</b> with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.</p> <p>He has <b>abdicated</b> Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.</p> <p>He has <b>plundered</b> our seas, <b>ravaged</b> our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.</p> <p>He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign <b>Mercenaries</b> to <b>compleat</b> the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty &amp; <b>perfidy</b> scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.</p> <p>(lines 63–69)</p>	<p><b>invested:</b> granted</p> <p><b>abdicated:</b> abandoned</p> <p><b>plundered:</b> looted or stolen</p> <p><b>ravaged:</b> devastated</p> <p><b>Mercenaries:</b> hired soldiers</p> <p><b>compleat:</b> engage in</p> <p><b>perfidy:</b> deceit</p>	<p>The king got rid of the colonial legislatures and started a war against the colonists during which people's lives and property have been destroyed.</p> <p>The king hired soldiers to fight the colonists, and the soldiers are especially cruel.</p>	

Quote	Vocabulary	In My Own Words	Illustration (or Meme/ GIF) of Main Idea(s)  * Illustrations should symbolically represent the sections' content and purpose.
<p>We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the <b>rectitude</b> 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 <b>Absolved</b> from all <b>Allegiance</b> to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally <b>dissolved</b>;</p> <p>(lines 85–90)</p>	<p><b>rectitude:</b> goodness</p> <p><b>Absolved:</b> Released</p> <p><b>Allegiance:</b> loyalty</p> <p><b>dissolved:</b> get rid of</p>	<p>As representatives of the colonists, the authors declare that they will be free and independent and no longer will be a part of Great Britain.</p>	

1. Why does this document include a long list of grievances?

*The document is providing evidence that the British government has acted tyrannically to justify declaring independence.*

2. Which section do you think is most important? Why?

*Accept reasonable answers.*

3. As Americans, should we be proud of this document? Explain your answer.

*Encourage students to recognize that the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence are aspirational and inspirational.*

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*Possible answers include: electing representatives, granting all men and later all women the right to vote.*

*Possible examples that the ideals were not faithfully applied and are a work in progress include: the existence of slavery, racism, prejudice, discrimination, etc.*

6. What is your role as a young adult in ensuring that the Founding ideals are faithfully applied?

*Accept reasonable answers.*

7. How do you think Founders like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams would like the Fourth of July holiday to be celebrated? After looking at the text of the Declaration of Independence closely in this activity, would you change or add anything to your celebration of the Fourth of July? Explain your answer.

*Accept reasonable answers.*

## Thomas Jefferson Looks Back on the Declaration of Independence

### Comprehension Questions

1. According to Jefferson, who was the audience for the Declaration of Independence?

*Jefferson states that the whole world was meant to see this document.*

2. According to Jefferson, what was the document's purpose?

*The purpose was to justify for the world or "mankind" that it was common sense for the colonies to declare independence.*

3. Jefferson called the language of the Declaration "plain and firm." Give at least two examples of this from the text of the Declaration.

*Possible answers include:*

*"all men are created equal"*

*"[all men] are endowed with certain unalienable rights"*

*"Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"*

*"The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries"*

4. Why would plain and firm language be necessary in this document?

*The document was meant to express the "American mind" and also to appeal to or explain to other countries why the colonies were declaring independence.*

5. Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of the Independence, before it was revised by other members of Congress, included the following passage as one of the "injuries and usurpations" the colonists had suffered under King George III.

*[The king] has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither ... determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold.*

How does Jefferson describe slavery in the first line of this passage? Why do you think other members of Congress revised the Declaration so that it did not include this passage?

*Jefferson describes slavery as a “cruel war against human nature” that violated the “most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons” enslaved. Jefferson recognized slavery as a violation of the inalienable rights of the enslaved. Congress removed the passage because colonists were complicit in the slave trade and slavery and could not solely blame the king for the violation of the rights of the enslaved.*

