

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Declaration of Independence Worksheet

Use a copy of the original Declaration of Independence in order to answer the following questions....

**The Declaration of Independence has 4 parts. The first part is the preamble which explains why the Continental Congress drew up the document itself.....*

1. In the preamble/introduction of the Declaration of Independence, what is the document saying?

**The second part of the Declaration of Independence is the Declaration of Natural Rights, which lists the rights of citizens and it explains why people set up government. Natural Rights were the belief of John Locke who was an enlightenment thinker during this time period. Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration, used many of his ideas in the Declaration of Independence itself.*

2. Why are governments formed?
3. What are some inalienable (natural) rights?
4. Where do people get their natural rights from?
5. Where does government get the power to rule?
6. What happens if a government takes away a person's natural rights?

**The third part of the Declaration of Independence is the list of grievances.*

7. What is a grievance?

8. Who is the list of grievances directed at specifically? (Who are they writing to?)

9. Complete the following grievances.....

- “For quartering.....
- “For cutting off our trade.....
- “For imposing.....
- “For depriving us, in many cases ...
- “For transporting us beyond the seas....
- “He has plundered our seas, ravages our coasts, burned our towns and....
- “He is at this time transporting....

10. What have the colonists done as a result of these grievances to resolve the issues they have with England? (See last paragraph of grievances section)

**The last part of the Declaration of Independence is the Resolution of Independence by the United States where the colonists finally declare themselves free and independent states*

11. The signers of the Declaration of Independence say they formed a new country called the....

12. As “Free and Independent States”, what powers does the Congress claim to have?

13. Fill in the missing words....

“That these United colonies are, and of right ought to be, _____
_____: that they are absolved from all
allegiance to the British crown and that _____

and ought to be, _____.”

11. What do the signers of the Declaration of Independence mutually pledge to each other?

12. Name ten of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the states they belong to....