

★ AMERICAN REVOLUTION SERIES ★

The Declaration of Independence

GRADES
4-6

A Bold Statement of Freedom and Equality



PRIMARY SOURCE
INVESTIGATION

ELA
INTEGRATED



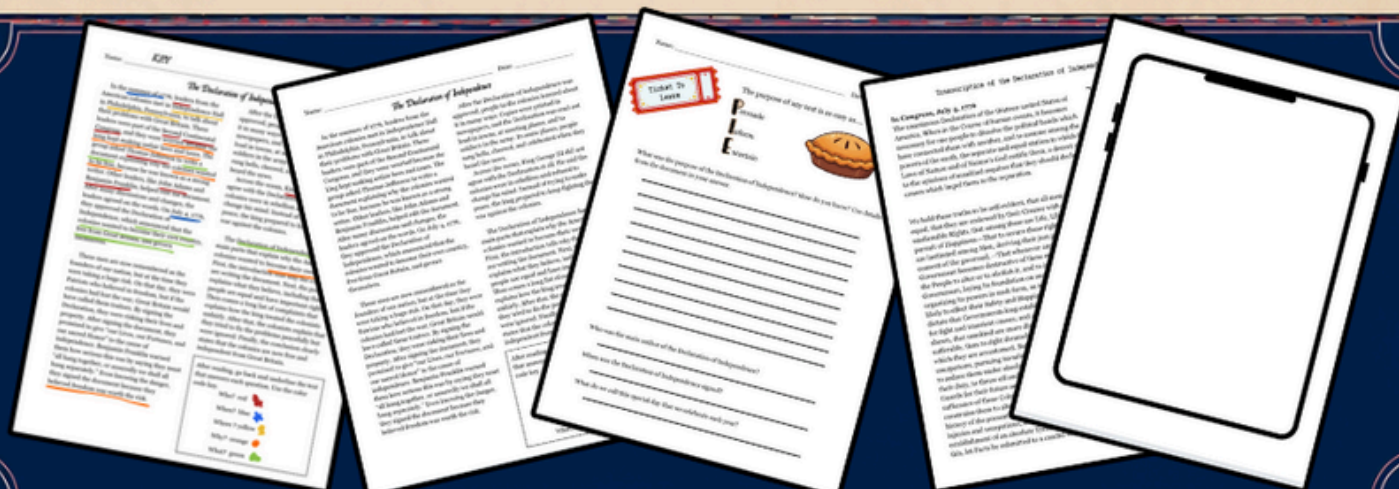
Assessments



Build Thinking Skills



Engaging Activities



Lesson Day 1 – The Declaration of Independence

Materials:

Included with download:

- “The Declaration of Independence” informational text & key
- Transcript of the Declaration of Independence, with the 5 parts noted (5 pages)
- “Declaration of Independence – Memorization Challenge” – optional
- “Declaration of Independence – Say it Your Way” directions page
- Cell phone outlines – two provided, one blank & one with lines

Anticipatory Set: Ask students what it means to declare something. You declarative sentences. Discuss. Next, say, “Imagine if our class wrote a letter. We are going to make our own rules instead of following the school’s rules. What questions to guide the discussion could be:

- Would that be a small or big decision?
- Would everyone agree with it?
- Would it be risky? If so, why?

Body: Transition into our topic. Read “The Declaration of Independence” with students, and tag the text as directed. Next, read the Declaration of Independence.

read a few

little more

have included

for your

If you

signer was

Lesson 1

Material

Included

• Ticket

Online:

- National Archives – Founding Documents. This link takes you to view www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration
- Tour of the National Archives by NBC News Lens & Capital Historical Society. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggw-nUXC-Zjs

Body: Use the two online links to (1) watch a video tour of the National Archives and (2) watch the actual Declaration. Afterwards, give students time to complete their text messages.

Closure: Share out text messages to King George.

Checking for Understanding: Ticket to Leave

The Declaration of Independence

Students will analyze the Declaration of Independence, learning about the five sections and what each says. They will determine the purpose of the Declaration. They will write a summary version using text lingo.

Detailed Lesson Plan ELA Integration Primary Source Analysis

Transcription of Declaration divided up into the 5 sections.

KEY

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Declaration of Independence

In the summer of 1776, leaders from the American colonies met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to talk about their problems with Great Britain. These leaders were part of the Second Continental Congress, and they were worried because the king kept making unfair laws and taxes. The group asked Thomas Jefferson to write a document explaining why the colonies wanted to be free, because he was known as a strong writer. Other leaders, like John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, helped edit the document. After many discussions and changes, the leaders agreed on the words. On July 4, 1776 they approved the Declaration of Independence, which announced that the colonies wanted to become their own country, free from Great Britain, and govern

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Transcription of the 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

Introduction - Explains why the colonists are writing this document.

Preamble - Explains what the colonists believe about government.

The Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Georgia Button Gwinnett Lyman Hall George Walton	Maryland Samuel Chase William Paca Thomas Stone	Delaware Caesar Rodney George Read Thomas McKean	Massachusetts Samuel Adams John Adams Robert Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry
		New York William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris	Rhode Island Stephen Hopkins William Ellery
		New Jersey Richard Stockton John Witherspoon	Connecticut Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington William Williams

Long list of complaints that explains how the king treated the colonists unfairly.

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 Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; 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.

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: or taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection 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 compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy 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 endeavoured 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.

Informational Text with Text Tagging & Key

our sacred Honor" to the cause of independence. Benjamin Franklin warned them how serious this was by saying they must "all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." Even knowing the danger, they signed the document because they believed freedom was worth the risk.

founders of our nation, but at the time they were taking a huge risk. On that day, they were Patriots who believed in freedom, but if the colonies had lost the war, Great Britain would have called them traitors. By signing the Declaration, they were risking their lives and property. After signing the document, they promised to give "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to the cause of independence. Benjamin Franklin warned them how serious this was by saying they must "all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." Even knowing the danger, they signed the document because they believed freedom was worth the risk.

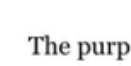
parent of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new 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.

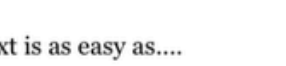
Transcription of Declaration divided into 5 sections.

Name: _____ KEY _____ Date: _____

 Ticket To
Leave

The purpose of any text is as easy as....

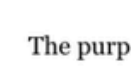
 Persuade

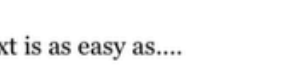


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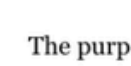
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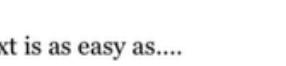


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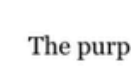
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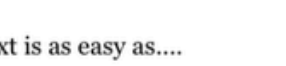


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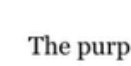
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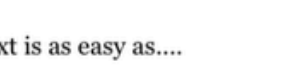


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 Ticket To
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The purpose of any text is as easy as....

 Persuade



Name: _____



The purpose of any text is as easy as

Persuade
Inform
Entertain



Name: _____



The purpose of any text is as easy as

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ELA Integrated Ticket to Leave

Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?
The main author is Thomas Jefferson.

When was the Declaration of Independence signed?
The Declaration of Independence was signed on September 17, 1776.

What do we call this special day that we celebrate every year?
We call the celebration of this day Independence Day.

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The Declaration of Independence - Memorization Challenge!

The lines below from the Declaration of Independence are very famous! They sum up what America believes and strives for. Your challenge - memorize this phrase!

...f-evident, that all men
are endowed by their
ble Rights, that among
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Differentiated Project Materials

Optional Memorization Challenge