



Name _____

Date: _____



Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:

7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #59

Aims: SWBAT identify and explain the purpose of the Declaration of Independence

DO NOW

You live on a farm in New York in 1776. The conflicts with the British have torn your family apart. Your father is loyal to King George and wants to remain British. But your mother is a fierce Patriot, and your brother wants to join the Continental Army. Your father and others who feel the same way are moving to British-held Canada. Now you must decide what you will do. **Would you go to Canada or support the Patriots? Explain**

1. Which statement is the most consistent with the views of Loyalists in the 1770s?
 - a. The colonists should be grateful to be under British rule and protection
 - b. Taxation without representation is tyranny
 - c. Citizens, under British rule, have the right to declare independence
 - d. The King is violating the rights of British citizens

2. The British system of mercantilism was designed to
 - a. Close Boston Harbor to trade
 - b. Encourage trade outside the British Empire
 - c. Favor the economic interests of Great Britain
 - d. Prevent local elections in the thirteen colonies

- What was the major effect of the Stamp Act of 1765 on colonial trade?
- a. The British refused to sell certain products to the colonists
 - b. The law led to a decline in the value of colonial currency
 - c. The colonists no longer needed British goods
 - d. Many colonists boycotted British goods



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DAILY DEBRIEF

Dear Scholars,

It's tough to be a seventh grader. Sometimes it feels like we don't have the power to make decisions about your life. People want you to act like an adult but act your age at the same time. Which one is it, you ask yourself. On the lines below, you have a place to vent your frustrations. You will have the next _____ minutes to work silently and independently on a list of complaints you have about the treatment of young people. Your complaints must be of a general nature (for example: recess should be longer, seventh graders should be able to transition themselves, etc.) Be prepared to share your list.

My Complaints: An Official List of Grievances

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

Turn and Talk

Directions: With your group members, share your list of grievances (complaints) you have about the rules you must follow. Create a consensus and choose the top three grievances. These grievances are the worst of the worst, in fact they're just *intolerable!*

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____



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Just like you, the American colonists had many complaints against the British government at the time of the American Revolution. Now that we have organized our grievances, what are YOU going to do about it?

II. So, what are you going to do about it?

Imagine, in the hopes of effecting some changes, we are going to compose a document of your complaints to be sent to the appropriate audience. In your groups complete the questions to prepare composing our document.

Group Roles:

1. Facilitator/Encourager: This scholar gets discussion moving and keeps it moving, often by asking the other group members questions, sometimes about what they've been saying _____

2. Timekeeper: Someone needs to make sure that the group stays on track and gets through the material in the allotted time. _____

3. Summarizer: Every three questions, this scholar provides a summary of the discussion for the other scholars to approve or amend (change). This scholar will also be responsible for representing the group during full class discussion. _____

4. Recorder/Secretary: This scholar takes notes, and makes sure that they are available so all scholars have a written record of the discussion. Should have neat handwriting and excellent grammar and spelling. _____

1. Whom would you send your complaints to? Why?

2. What makes you think your complaints are worthwhile? Why should things change?

3. What events inspired your complaints? What should the reader know about your complaints?



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4. Have you already tried to make changes for young people? What have you done so far?

5. In one sentence write what needs to change. What should happen RIGHT NOW?

6. Who is willing to sign their name for the complaints? You might get into trouble for making and sending this list. Are you ready to face the consequences for your actions?

III. The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America

The Declaration of Independence was created in an atmosphere of complaints about the treatments of the colonies under British rule. Let's read through the Declaration together to see how it is organized and what the colonists had to say.

1) Preamble: The _____ the Declaration

❖ What reason(s) did the Founding Fathers give for their decision to write out a declaration?

2) Statement of beliefs: Specifying what the undersigned believed, the philosophy behind the document

❖ What beliefs did the Founding Fathers declare they held?

Amina Brown 12/21/12 12:20 AM
Comment [1]: Reason for writing



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3) List of Complaints: the _____ that impelled the declaration

❖ What were some of the complaints mentioned?

❖ Are any specific events mentioned?

4) Statement of prior attempts to redress grievances: Times the colonists had tried to _____ the problems

❖ In what way(s) did the Framers claim to have already tried addressing the complaints

5) Declaration of Independence: _____

❖ What will change in the colonies as a result of the Declaration?

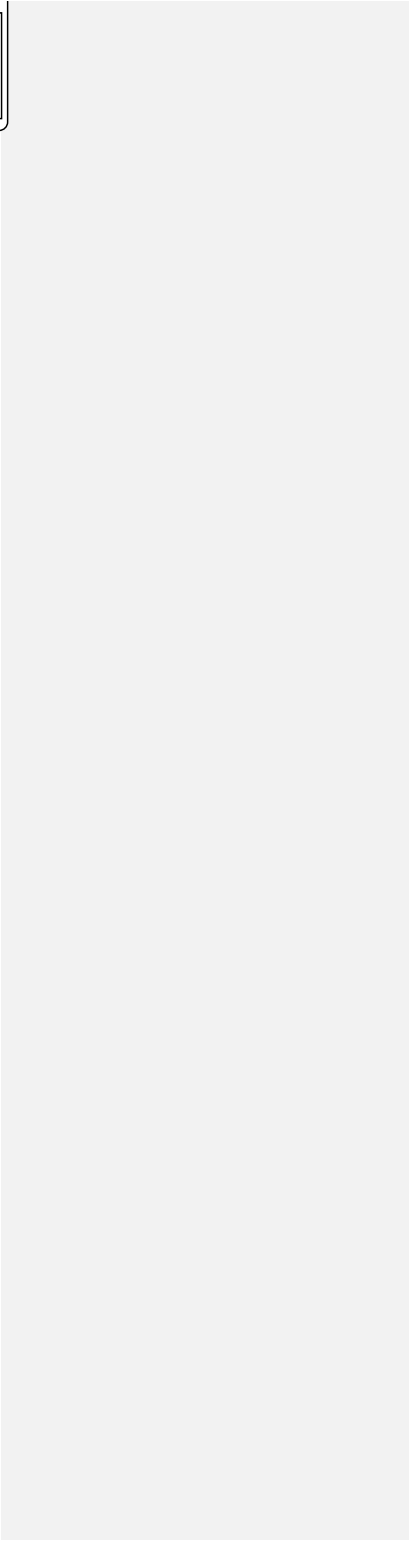
6) The Signatures

❖ Which signers do you recognize?

Amina Brown 12/21/12 12:21 AM
Comment [2]: offenses

Amina Brown 12/21/12 12:21 AM
Comment [3]: solve

Amina Brown 12/21/12 12:21 AM
Comment [4]: The Break Up



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The Declaration of Independence (A Translation)

Sometimes one group of people decide to split off from another group, and to become an independent country, as the laws of Nature and of God say that they can. But when this happens, if they want other people to respect them, they should explain why they are splitting off.

We think these things are obviously true:

- ❖ That all men are created equal
- ❖ That all men have some rights given to them by God
- ❖ That among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

So whenever any government is getting in the way of these rights, people have the right to change it or get rid of it, and make a new government, in whatever way seems most likely to make them safe and happy.

People should not change their government without a good reason, so people usually suffer as long as they can under the government they have, rather than change it. But when there have been a lot of problems for a long time, it is their right and their responsibility to throw off that government, and to set up a better government.

We here in America have suffered for a very long time, and now we should change our government. The King of England has done many bad things to us – here is a list.

- ❖ He won't let us pass laws we need for everybody's good
- ❖ Even when do pass laws, he won't sign them so they can go into effect
- ❖ He tried to force men to give up their rights to make laws
- ❖ He calls men together to make laws in the most inconvenient times and places, so that they won't be able to go discuss the new laws
- ❖ He won't let new settlers come to America, and he won't let the settlers take over the new land from the Native Americans
- ❖ He won't let us choose our own judges, and instead he chooses them all himself, so they're all on his side
- ❖ He sends lots of new government officials that we don't want, and he makes us pay for them
- ❖ He sends lots of English soldiers here when there isn't even a war, and makes us let them live in our own houses.
- ❖ He tells us these soldiers can do whatever they want and don't have to obey the law
- ❖ He won't let us buy and sell things from wherever we want. We can only buy things from England
- ❖ He makes us pay all kinds of taxes without asking us about it
- ❖ He won't let us have a jury for our trials, only a judge
- ❖ He sends people accused of crimes far away to England for their trials
- ❖ He tries to get people to revolt and tries to get the Indian Savages to attack us

When we ask him to stop, he just keeps doing more bad things. We have tried to talk to the other people who live in England. We asked them to stop these crimes against us, but they have acted as though they



were deaf. So we have to separate from England, and they will be our enemies during the war, though we hope they'll be our friends when there is peace.

So we think that God will see that we are doing the right thing when we declare that the United States are now completely independent of the King of England. We have no political connection to England at all. And as an independent state, we say that each state has the right to make war, to make peace, to make alliances with other countries, trade with other countries, and do everything else that countries do. And we promise that we will fight for our independence with the help of God – we promise by our lives, our property, and our sacred honor.

Among the men who signed this declaration of Independence were Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.