



Name _____

Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:



7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #60

Aims: SWBAT identify and explain the purpose of the Declaration of Independence
SWBAT identify the author of the Declaration of Independence
SWBAT analyze the mean of the language of the Declaration of Independence by translating excerpts into modern language

DO NOW

Overview

In January 1776, just as it became clear in the colonies that the king was not going to back down, [Thomas Paine](#)'s pamphlet [Common Sense](#) was published. Paine argued in favor of colonial independence. *Common Sense* introduced no new ideas and probably had little direct effect on Congress's thinking about independence; its importance was in stimulating public debate on a topic that few people had previously dared to openly discuss. Public support for separation from Great Britain steadily increased after the publication of Paine's enormously popular pamphlet.

After the Battles at Lexington and Concord, the **Second Continental Congress** met. As the colonies and England had already begun to fight, the Second continental Congress had a great deal of work to do. First, they elected **George Washington** as the Commander of the Army. Then, the Congress commissioned **Thomas Jefferson** to write what became known as the Declaration of Independence.

The purpose of the Declaration of Independence was twofold. One, it described the grievances, or problems, against King George III and Parliament. Second, it declared the independence of the colonies in British North America.

1. The author of the Declaration of Independence was _____.
2. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?





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Translating and Analyzing a Primary Source Document

Now you will be detectives, uncovering the meaning behind the Declaration of Independence. Using the tools you have, you will “translate” the following excerpts into modern day language.

Part I: The following four principles of government are used in the Declaration of Independence to make the argument for independence. Fill in the missing words

Principle 1 All _____ are created equal.

Principle 2 All people have basic _____ rights that cannot be taken away

Principle 3 The government gets its power to make decisions and protect rights from the _____.

Principle 4 When the government does not protect the _____ of the people, the _____ have the right to _____ or _____ the government.

2. Identify which principle of government is expressed in each of the seven excerpts from the Declaration of Independence. Excerpts may express more than one principle.

Write the numbers of the principles in the chart. Also underline the portions of the excerpts that support your choices.

Part 2: You will receive a card with excerpts from the Declaration of Independence written in modern language. Work with your partner to match those modern excerpts with the actual excerpts from the Declaration chart.

Have Ms. Brown check your answers. If your answers are correct, copy the modern versions into the chart. Then get a new card and repeat the process.



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Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence	Excerpts in Modern Language	My Words
<p>Excerpt 1: When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...a decent respect to the opinion of mankind required that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	
<p>Excerpt 2: 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.</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	
<p>Excerpt 3: That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	
<p>Excerpt 4: 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.</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	



<p>Excerpt 5: The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object establishment of absolute tyranny over these states</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	
<p>Excerpt 6: 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 this marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be a ruler.</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	
<p>Excerpt 7: 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.</p>	<p>Principle of government _____</p>	



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EXIT TICKET

_____/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

- 1) Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
 - a) Thomas Jefferson
 - b) George Washington
 - c) Abraham Lincoln
 - d) George Bush

- 2) What individual wrote "Common Sense," opening up the public debate about independence?
 - a) Benjamin Franklin
 - b) Samuel Adams
 - c) Thomas Paine
 - d) King George

- 3) What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
 - a) To describe the grievances against the Crown and Parliament
 - b) To reconcile with the British
 - c) To gain support from the loyalists
 - d) To proclaim their surrender to the British and its policies

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain enacts a series of legislation on the colonies• Thomas Paine publishes <i>Common Sense</i>• Public sentiment for separation from Britain grows in America |
|---|

- 4) The above statements led to which of the following documents?
 - a) Declaration of Independence
 - b) Articles of Confederation
 - c) Bill of Rights
 - d) Constitution of the United States





Excerpts in Modern Language

A

We now consider ourselves to be an independent country. We have no more loyalty to Great Britain and they no longer have the power to rule over us.

B

When a government takes away the rights of citizens, the citizens have the right to change the government or create a new one.

C

All people have some basic rights that cannot be taken away. Liberty is one of those rights.

D

The current ruler of Great Britain has repeatedly interfered with colonists' rights, sometimes even taking them away. He has ruled unfairly over the American colonies.

E

Governments are formed to make sure people's rights are protected. The power to govern comes from the people.

F

Every time we colonists felt we were being treated unfairly, we wrote the king. He answered by treating us more unfairly. A ruler who abuses his power should not rule us.

G

When people break away from a country to form a new nation, they should explain why they are doing it.