



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE STUDENT WORKSHEET

For use with the Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia and Compton's Encyclopedia by Britannica articles "Declaration of Independence."

PART ONE

Match up the following figures, groups, and places related to the Declaration of Independence with the best definition.

(For use with both the Britannica Elementary and Compton's articles.)

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|--|---|
| 1. _____ Richard Henry Lee | A. One of the first colonies to establish an independent government |
| 2. _____ Thomas Jefferson | B. Location of the Declaration today |
| 3. _____ John Adams | C. Wrote <i>Common Sense</i> pamphlet criticizing the British king |
| 4. _____ Thomas Paine | D. Passed an act stopping trade with the colonies |
| 5. _____ George III | E. Adopted the Declaration on July 4, 1776 |
| 6. _____ Second Continental Congress | F. Wrote the first draft of the Declaration |
| 7. _____ New York | G. Massachusetts representative who was on the Declaration committee |
| 8. _____ Independence Hall (State House) | H. Virginia representative who proposed the independence resolution to Congress |
| 9. _____ New Hampshire | I. Site where the Declaration was signed |
| 10. _____ British Parliament | J. British king who declared the colonists were rebels |
| 11. _____ National Archives | K. The last colony to accept the Declaration |

PART TWO

(For use with the Compton's article.)

Mark the following either true (T) or false (F).

1. _____ When war broke out between Britain and the colonies in April 1775, most Americans were fighting for independence.
2. _____ The *Common Sense* pamphlet argued that the colonists should separate from Great Britain.
3. _____ The resolution for independence was introduced to Congress by Thomas Jefferson.
4. _____ Jefferson succeeded in getting language attacking slavery included in the final draft of the Declaration.
5. _____ The Liberty Bell did not crack while announcing the reading of the Declaration.
6. _____ The Declaration of Independence did not establish the independence of the American colonies.

Fill in the blanks below in this passage from the Declaration of Independence. In the lines below the passage, use a dictionary to find the definition of each word and write it out in your own words.

(For use with the Compton's article.)

WHEN in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to (1) _____ 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 Laws of Nature and of Nature's God (2) _____ them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which (3) _____ them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be (4) _____, that all men are created equal, that they are (5) _____ by their Creator with certain (6) _____ Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are (7) _____ among Men, (8) _____ their just powers from the (9) _____ 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 (10) _____, and to institute new Government, laying

its foundation on such (11) _____ and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

PART THREE

(For use with the Compton's article.)

For each of the people below, note what they had to do with the Declaration of Independence and why they were important to its creation. Feel free to use each individual's biography in Compton's as a research resource for adding more information to the chart.

Person	Role	Importance
Thomas Jefferson		
Richard Henry Lee		
John Adams		
George III		
John Locke		
Thomas Paine		
Benjamin Franklin		