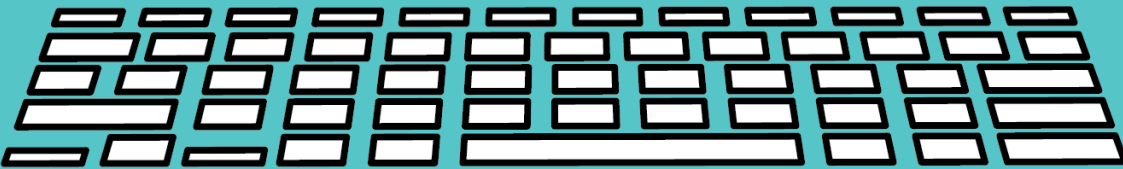
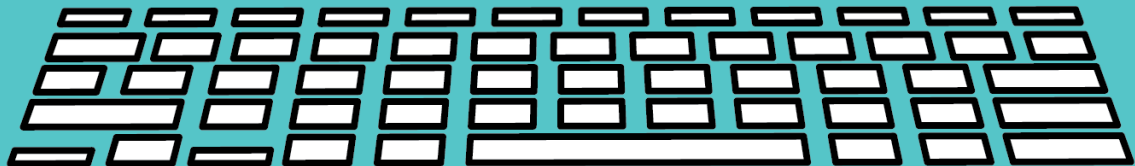


TWO PEOPLE WHO
SIGNED THE
DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE
LATER BECAME
PRESIDENT

| Short Answer | Type Answer Here |
|--|------------------|
| 1. What was the name of British King at the time? | |
| 2. In what city did the 2nd Continental Congress meet? | |
| 3. How many men signed the Declaration? | |
| 4. What are grievances? | |
| 5. What is the final part of the Declaration called? | |
| 6. What is a term for cruel or unjust treatment? | |
| 7. Who is considered the main author of the Declaration? | |
| 8. What is the British government called? | |



| Short Answer | Type Answer Here | Fill in the Blank | Type Answer Here |
|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. What was the name of the British King at the time? | | 9. Thomas Jefferson was inspired by ____ ideas. | |
| 2. In what city did the 2nd Continental Congress meet? | | 10. 3 rights listed are life, liberty and the pursuit of ____. | |
| 3. How many men signed the Declaration? | | 11. The king forced colonists to ____ military supplies. | |
| 4. What are grievances? | | 12. One grievance was ____ with no representation. | |
| 5. What is the final part of the Declaration called? | | 13. Part two is called the Declaration ____. | |
| 6. What is a term for cruel or unjust treatment? | | 14. ____ Adams was in favor of separating from England. | |
| 7. Who is considered the main author of the Declaration? | | 15. Part one is the ____ or introduction. | |
| 8. What is the British government called? | | 16. Prior to 1776, the ____ colonies were ruled by the British Empire. | |



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Prior to 1776, the colonies were ruled by the British Empire. During this time, many American colonists were angry with Great Britain for the taxes they were forced to pay. They did not have a voice to speak for them in British Parliament. Colonists were frustrated with George and Great Britain. They felt that the British was constantly taking away their freedoms through their laws.

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1776. Representatives from the thirteen colonies agreed to demand harsher treatment from Great Britain. They decided to consider the British ruler, King George III. John Adams was in favor of separating from England and convinced many other delegates to vote for independence.

A five member committee was asked to write a declaration explaining why they wanted to separate and justify the decision. Essentially, the Declaration of Independence was the word's biggest "break up" letter. The colonists were "breaking up" with King George.

The Declaration of Independence stated that the colonies were no longer under the control of Great Britain or King George. The declaration promised that the rights of the people would be protected. A list of complaints against George III and the British Parliament were included as well.

Lastly, the Declaration of Independence announced the new independent country of the United States of America. This essentially would allow them to form alliances with other countries.

The committee chosen to write the Declaration of Independence included Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson is considered the main author. When writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson was inspired by Enlightenment ideas from philosophers like John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu. The Declaration of Independence introduced a new theory of government based on liberty and equality.

The Declaration of Independence can be broken up into four parts. Part one is the preamble, or introduction. The first few words are "When in the course of human events..." The preamble explains why the Declaration of Independence was written. It also explains why the new nation must be formed. The first paragraph describes the purpose of the document. When a government becomes oppressive (cruel or unjust treatment) the people have the right to alter

or abolish it. To alter means to change and to abolish means to get rid of. "It becomes necessary... to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..." When people decide to separate from one political process to create a new one, it is their duty to explain to the world why they are separating.

Part two is called the Declaration of Rights. "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." The basic assumption is that every human is equal. It is interesting to note that during that time period, women and African Americans did not receive equal treatment. What did Jefferson mean when he said "All men are created equal"?

Three rights listed in the famous second paragraph are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Declaration states that those three rights are unalienable rights, rights you are born with that cannot be taken away. This paragraph was influenced by John Locke's idea of natural rights. "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men..." This means that the people created a government in order to protect their rights. Governments should get their power from the people they govern or the consent of the governed.

Part three is a list of grievances, or complaints. The long list of grievances states the wrongs and injustices of King George III. Some of the most important grievances included the king without representation. The king also took away the colonist's right to a fair trial by jury. Colonies were denied the right to create their own justice systems. Colonial laws were suspended until the king approved them. The king made it difficult for the colonists to participate in government. He also forced colonists to house British soldiers. In total, there were twenty seven grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence.

The fourth and final part is called the conclusion. The resolution wraps up the Declaration. The colonists had asked the king several times for compromises but the king refused with more restrictions. Therefore, the colonists now officially declared themselves as a new and independent nation free from British rule. The Declaration of Independence was signed on August 2nd. Independence was declared on July 4th. The Continental Congress approved the final draft of the Declaration of Independence was a formal statement of the United States' independence from the United States from Great Britain. It was signed by 56 men, including John Hancock.

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