

The Declaration of Independence

What principles of government are expressed in the Declaration of Independence?

PREVIEW

On a separate sheet of paper, write any phrases or sentences that you know from the Declaration of Independence. In your own words, explain what you think each of these phrases or sentences mean.

READING NOTES

Social Studies Vocabulary

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

independence

Common Sense

natural rights

petition

Declaration of Independence

Section 1

- Who did John Adams propose should be commander in chief of the Continental army? What was the main reason he suggested this person?

Events in the Battle of Bunker Hill

```

graph TD
    A[ ] --> B[ ]
    B --> C[ ]
    C --> D[ ]
  
```

- In the flowchart, record four important details about the Battle of Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill).

3. Sketch the important event that took place in each location. Write a caption for each sketch that explains the importance of the event.

Ticonderoga (Winter 1775–1776)

Boston (March 4, 1776)

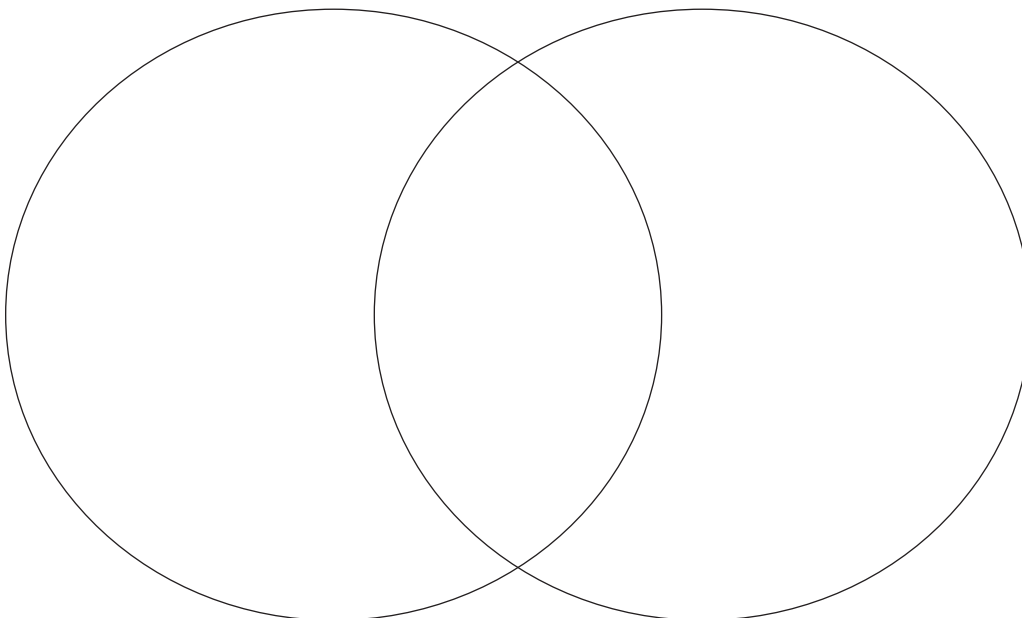
Section 2

1. Rewrite this sentence to make it correct: *After the battles at Lexington and Concord and the British retreat from Boston, there were many more battles, and most colonists began to cry for independence.*

2. In the Venn diagram, record at least one similarity and at least three differences between the Olive Branch Petition and *Common Sense*.

Olive Branch Petition

Common Sense



Section 3

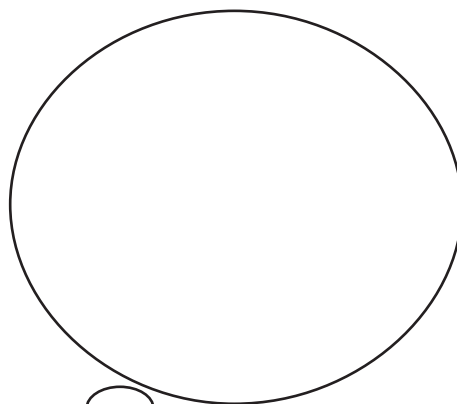
1. Who drafted the Declaration of Independence? What was his main job in writing this document?

2. Choose three important ideas in the Declaration of Independence. Write them in the chart below. Then explain why you think each idea is important.

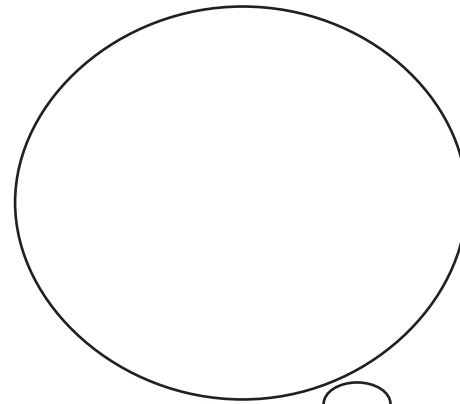
Ideas in the Declaration	Why This Idea Is Important
1	
2	
3	

Section 4

1. Fill in the thought bubbles. Have each delegate to the Second Continental Congress explain why he opposed Jefferson's passage on slavery.



Northern Delegate



Southern Delegate

2. Draw a political cartoon that shows what might have happened to the delegates if the new nation had failed to win its freedom from Great Britain. Include a caption explaining your cartoon.

P R O C E S S I N G

On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph that explains how one of the following principles of government is expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Support your argument with at least one excerpt from the Declaration.

- Principle 1: All people 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 to protect rights from the people.
- Principle 4: When the government does not protect the rights of the people, the people have the right to change or remove the government.

INVESTIGATING PRIMARY SOURCES

Identifying Evidence

Consider this question: *How did Common Sense create tension in the colonies?*

Examine the four primary sources in the reading, and write down evidence from each source that helps answer this question.

<p>Primary Source 1</p>	<p>Primary Source 2</p>
<p>Primary Source 3</p>	<p>Primary Source 4</p>

Use the evidence you gathered to make a claim to the question.

Claim:

Constructing an Argument

Create an argument to answer the question: *How did Common Sense create tension in the colonies?* Your argument should:

- clearly state your claim.
- include evidence from multiple sources.
- provide explanations for how the sources support the claim.

Use this rubric to evaluate your argument. Make changes as needed.

Score	Description
3	The claim clearly answers the question. The argument uses evidence from two or more primary sources that strongly support the claim. The explanations accurately connect to the evidence and claim.
2	The claim answers the question. The argument uses evidence from one or more primary sources that support the claim. Some of the explanations connect to the evidence and claim.
1	The claim fails to answer the question. The argument lacks evidence from primary sources. Explanations are missing or are unrelated to the evidence and claim.