

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence as stated in the introductory paragraph?

Why was justifying revolution so necessary?

What groups did the Continental Congress hope to sway by this document?

How do you know that Jefferson addressed the Declaration of Independence to a literate audience?

What other people had created a climate for revolution among the masses before 1776?

What was the cause for issuing the Declaration of Independence?

Merely declaring independence did not gain British recognition of colonial independence. What advantage could the colonies gain, then, by announcing their independence from England?

In view of the possible advantages of a declaration of independence from England, what factors caused the colonies to proceed with great caution?

According to Jefferson, who has the right to create government?

According to Jefferson, what is the purpose of a government?

According to Jefferson, what should the people do if the government fails to fulfill its purpose?

Using your answers to the previous three questions, summarize Jefferson's major premise or assumption in the Declaration of Independence?

What legal means of protest had the colonists taken to convince the British to change their ways?

How had the British responded to these appeals?

What conclusion did Jefferson then draw?

How do we know that the colonists were God-fearing people?