

Declaration of Independence

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<p>1 When in the course of human events, it becomes 2 necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands 3 which have connected them with another, and to assume 4 among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal 5 station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God 6 entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind 7 requires that they should declare the causes which impel 8 them to the separation. 9 10 We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are 11 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator 12 with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are 13 Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to 14 secure these rights, governments are instituted among 15 men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the 16 governed, --That whenever any form of government 17 becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the 18 People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new 19 Government, laying its foundation on such principles and 20 organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem 21 most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...</p>	<p>1. What are the three unalienable rights – rights that can't be taken away- [paragraph 1] listed in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence?</p> <p>2. The writers of the Declaration wrote that “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”. What does this mean in terms of how governments get power?</p> <p>3. According to the preamble, when do people have the right to abolish their government [paragraph 2]?</p>
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<p>1 Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long 2 established should not be changed for light and transient 3 causes;... But when a long train of abuses and 4 usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces 5 a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is 6 their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, 7 and to provide new guards for their future security. — 8 Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; 9 and such is now the necessity which constrains them to 10 alter their former systems of government. The history of 11 the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated 12 injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the 13 establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. 14 15 To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. 16 • He has refused his assent [approval] to laws, the 17 most wholesome and necessary for the public 18 good... 19 • He has kept among us, in times of peace, 20 standing armies without the consent of our 21 legislature....He has allowed the military to act 22 independent of any laws, doing as they please to 23 reign terror over our us</p>	<p>1. According to lines 1 - 7, why have the colonists chosen to declare independence?</p> <p>2. Rephrase lines 16-18 in your own words.</p>
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<p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has cut off our trade with all parts of the world; • He imposes taxes on us without our consent; • He deprives us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury... • He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us. • He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people... 	<p>3. Which three of these seven grievances do you think were harshest to the colonists? Explain why.</p>
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<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>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 thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.</p> <p>We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here...They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore...which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.</p> <p>We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled... do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that 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; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration... we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.</p>	<p>1. According to lines 1 - 13, what have colonists done before this Declaration of Independence to address their concerns? How did Great Britain respond?</p> <p>2. According to lines 16 - 28, what are the colonists now doing in response to their grievances?</p> <p>3. We know that we went to war with Britain over this Declaration - why? Why would Britain not want us to sever ties with them?</p>
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