Name	Date	Period

# 3-2 – Declaring Independence- Pages 83-85

Essential Question: What factors made the colonies formally declare their independence from Great Britain?

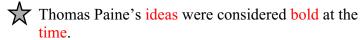
#### Main Idea 1:

Thomas Paine's Common Sense led many colonists to support independence.

- Common Sense: 47-page pamphlet written by Thomas Paine, published in January 1776
- Urged separation from Great Britain
- Argued that citizens, not monarchs, should make laws



- Argued for economic freedom and the right to military selfdefense
- Cried out against tyranny, the abuse of government power
- Reached a wide audience, selling some 500,000 copies
- Common Sense inspired colonial leaders to challenge British authority.



Most of the world was still ruled by monarchs.

## **Declaration of Independence**

- Many colonial leaders agreed with Thomas Paine's ideas.
- It inspired them to challenge British authority.
- Ideas that developed during the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening influenced the colonists' view of government
- of government.
- Colonists began to desire political equality.
- The phrase, "Taxation without representation" was important to the revolutionary cause.

  Colonists did not wish to support a government in which they had no voice.
- Second Continental Congress created a committee in June 1776 to write a document declaring independence
- Thomas Jefferson was main author
- Jefferson felt the colonists had the right to break away from Great Britain.
   Great Britain did not protect the rights of the colonists.
- Declaration of Independence formally announced break with Great Britain
- Approved on July 7, 1776

#### Main Idea 2:

Colonists had differing reactions to the Declaration of Independence.

#### **Patriots**

- Patriots chose to fight for independence.
- About 40 to 45 percent of Americans were Patriots





Name	Date	Period

# Loyalists

Loyalists, sometimes called Tories, remained loyal to Britain.

- Felt the colonies did not need independence.
- About 20 to 30 percent of Americans were Loyalists.

## Neutral

• About 25 percent of Americans remained neutral.

## Other Reactions to Declaration

- Declaration ignored many colonists
- Did not address the rights of women
- Did not recognize the rights of enslaved African Americans
  The Declaration of Independence raised questions about because its message was not consistent with the practice of



slavery slavery.

