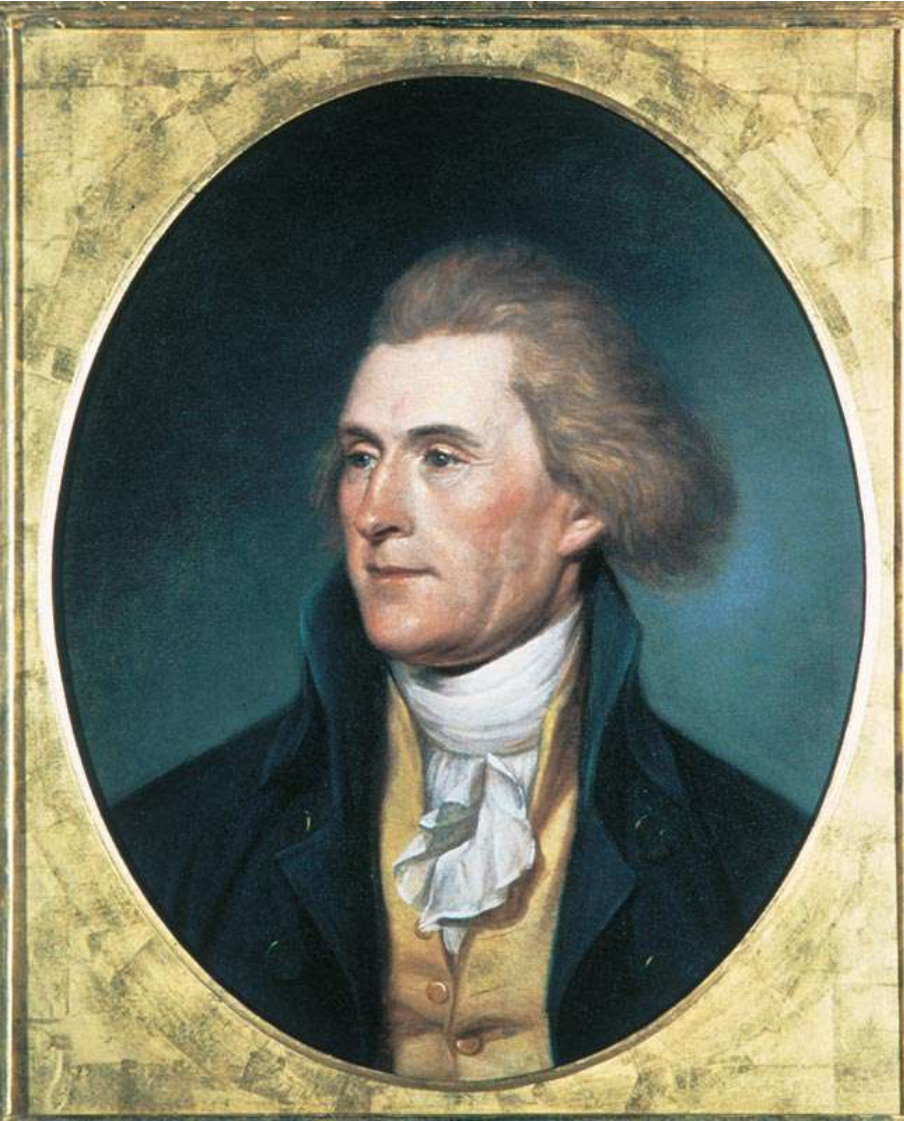


The Declaration of Independence



Who wrote the Declaration?

Thomas Jefferson

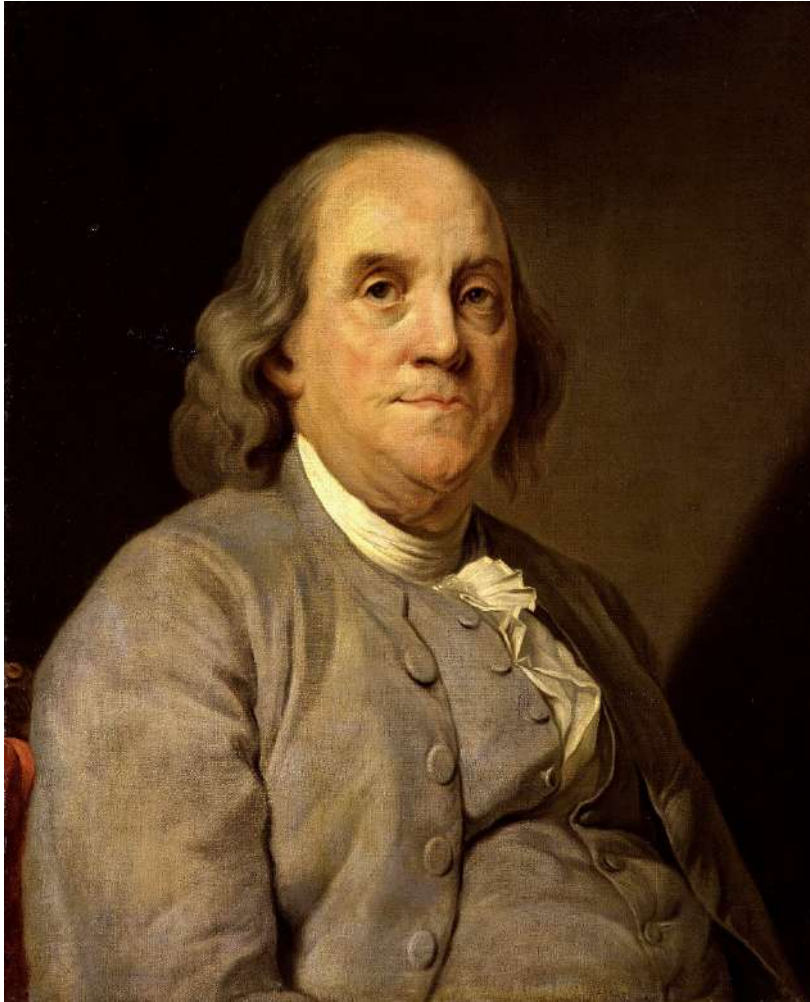


About The Author

- **Born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia to a wealthy family.**
- **He was very well educated. Attended The College of William & Mary.**
- **Served in the Virginia House of Burgesses.**
- **Eloquent correspondent, but not good public speaker**
- **Known as the "silent member" of the Congress**
- **He was chosen to write the first draft of the Declaration of Independence.**

Who else signed the declaration?

Benjamin Franklin



- **Born on January 17, 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts**
- **He was the oldest man to sign the Declaration of Independence.**
- **Benjamin Franklin was many things: a printer, writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, civic leader, and diplomat.**
- **As a scientist, he is best known for his experiments with electricity.**

Who else signed the declaration?

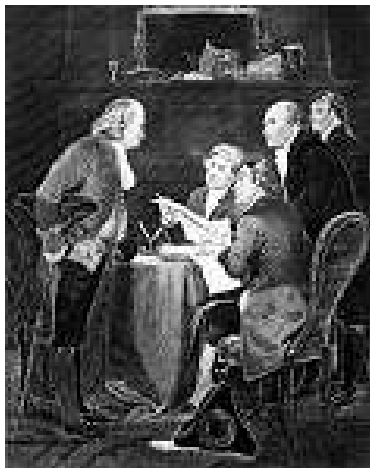
John Adams



- **Born on October 30, 1735.**
- **He was a teacher and a lawyer before becoming involved in politics.**
- **He was a member of the Continental Congress committee that wrote the Declaration.**
- **He became the nation's first vice president under George Washington.**
- **He became the 2nd president of the United States in 1797.**

Intended Audience

- The audience were the colonists wanting independence from England.
- They also wanted King George to know that they were angry with English rule.



Jefferson's Viewpoint on the Major Issues of His Time

He believed in the separation of church and state. This means that religion and politics shouldn't mix.

He believed that the colonies had the right to overthrow an abusive government.



Main Points of the Declaration of Independence

- **All men are created equal.**

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

- **Men are given certain rights from birth.**

“They are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

- **We have the right to declare our independence from England.**

“When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them...”

Main Points of the Declaration of Independence

Governments should be elected and not chosen by the religion.

“Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

When a government abuses it's power, the people have the right to protest.

“That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it...”

The colonies tried repeatedly to compromise with King George, but he never listened.

“Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

Historical Significance

- The American Colonies finally declared their independence from England
- It was the first step in the creation of a new nation with a
DEMOCRACY.

