

# The Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



# Declaration of Independence

- The Second Continental Congress voted to declare the 13 Colonies independent of Britain on July 2, 1776
- The document was approved on July 4, 1776
- The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania State House
- The Declaration explained why the Colonies wanted independence from Britain and declared a new nation.



## Hi-lite:

- When was the Declaration of Independence approved?
- What did the Declaration explain?

# The Declaration of Independence

- The Declaration of Independence is organized into five sections.
- The first section is the Preamble, also known as the Introduction
- *“When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another . . .”*

**Hi-lite**: the part of the quote that says the Colonists should break from Britain.

# Preamble

- “DISSOLVE POLITICAL BANDS . . .”

# The Declaration of Independence

- The second part of the Declaration is a statement of human rights.

**Hi-lite:** the part of the quote that explains basic human rights.

- *We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

# Statement of Human Rights

- “. . . endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights . . .”
- “Life . . .”
- “Liberty . . .”
- “Pursuit of Happiness . . .”
- “Consent of the Governed . . .”

# The Declaration of Independence

- The third part of the Declaration is a statement of charges, or complaints, against the king.

**Hi-lite:** the part of  
The quote that complains  
About taxation  
without representation

- *“For quartering large bodies of troops among us.*
- *For imposing taxes on us without our consent.*
- *For taking away our charters . . . altering the forms of our governments.”*

# The Declaration of Independence

- The fourth part of the Declaration is about the English government's failure to answer the Colonist's complaints.
- *“Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. [rejection, insult]”*



# The Declaration of Independence

- The fifth part of the Declaration is a statement of independence and the naming of the new nation: The United States of America.
  - *“We, therefore, the representatives of the united States of America. . . solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be Free and Independent States. . .”*
- Hi-lite**: the part of the quote that is the Declaration of Independence.



Delaware

George Read  
Caesar Rodney  
Thomas McKean

Pennsylvania

George Clymer  
Benjamin Franklin  
Robert Morris  
John Morton  
Benjamin Rush  
George Ross  
James Smith  
James Wilson  
George Taylor

Massachusetts

John Adams  
Samuel Adams  
John Hancock  
Robert Treat Paine  
Elbridge Gerry

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett  
William Whipple  
Matthew Thornton

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins  
William Ellery

New York

Lewis Morris  
Philip Livingston  
Francis Lewis  
William Floyd

Georgia

Button Gwinnett  
Lyman Hall  
George Walton

Virginia

Richard Henry Lee  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Carter Braxton  
Benjamin Harrison  
Thomas Jefferson  
George Wythe  
Thomas Nelson, Jr.

North Carolina

William Hooper  
John Penn  
Joseph Hewes

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge  
Arthur Middleton  
Thomas Lynch, Jr.  
Thomas Heyward, Jr.

New Jersey

Abraham Clark  
John Hart  
Francis Hopkinson  
Richard Stockton  
John Witherspoon

Connecticut

Samuel Huntington  
Roger Sherman  
William Williams  
Oliver Wolcott

Maryland

Charles Carroll  
Samuel Chase  
Thomas Stone  
William Paca

