

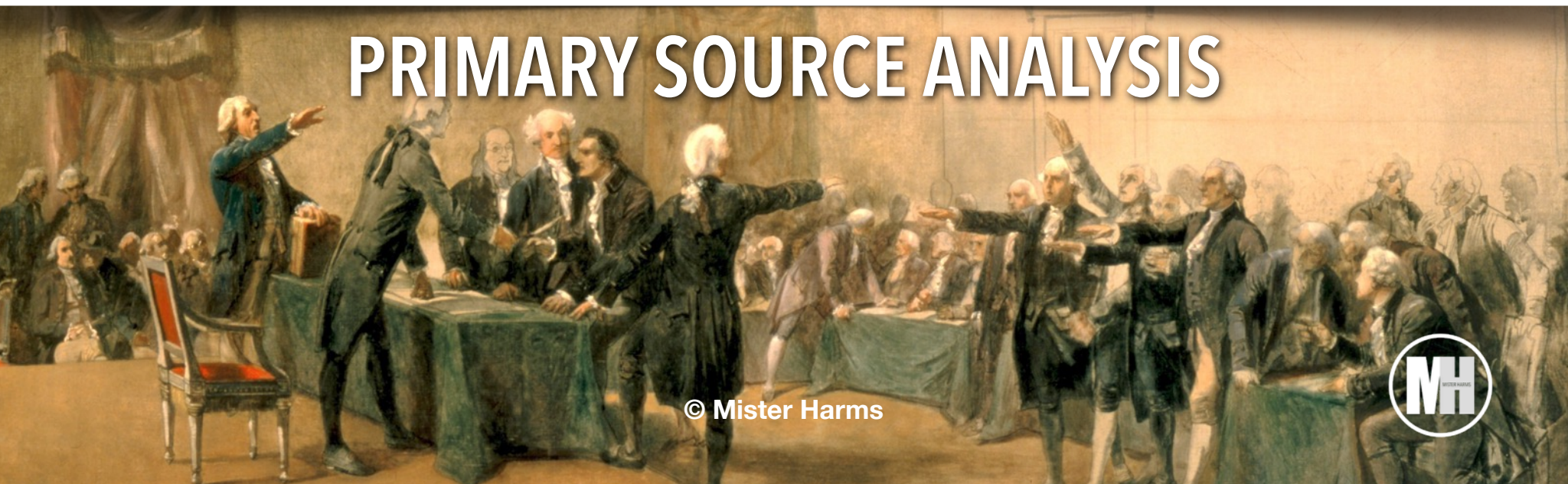
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — 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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

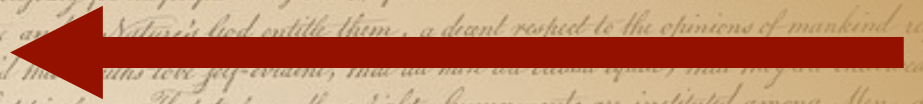
PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS



15 QUESTION

PRIMARY SOURCE

ANALYSIS WORKSHEET



Primary Source Analysis
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

name: _____

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American History! A letter consisting of 1,300 words, this declaration was from the American Colonists to their unfavored leader King George III. Approved by congress on July 4th, 1776, a letter of such emotion and disdain was considered disrespectful, as well as an act of treason. The 56 signers of the Declaration wanted to let the King know of the many complaints they had with their leader, and that the colonies were breaking away – or declaring independence. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, this letter to the king was the official beginning of the United States of America.

FIND IT!

Find the lettered section from the Declaration of Independence that best matches each summary below.

	Section Letter
1 The King has not supported laws that are necessary for the common good, he doesn't allow the governors to pass laws that are needed, and he has invaded on the rights of our people.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The King has taken away our rights to a trial by jury, sent us overseas to be tried, taken away our charters, altered our governments, and keeps messing with our Legislatures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Governments should not be changed for simple causes, but when there has been a long series of abuses, it is the right the people to abolish such governments. Now let us prove these abuses to the viewing world.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The King has burnt our towns, ravaged our coasts, and is an unworthy head of this colonial nation. He has even taken fellow citizens and turned them against each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANSWER IT!

Complete the following questions below and refer to the Declaration of Independence to find your answers.

- As explained in Section A, explain what the colonists are wanting to do? Explain the words **dissolve** and **separate** in your answer.
- Jefferson states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident". What are these evident or obvious "truths" as explained in Section B.
- According to Section B, what is the source of government power, and when should a government be overthrown?
- In Section K, what powers does Jefferson think the colonies should have as free and independent states?

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SUMMARIZE IT!

Similar to the **FIND IT!**, rewrite the following paragraphs in your own words to make them short and more easily understandable.

- Section A
- Section I
- Section K

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Primary Source Analysis
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

name: **ANSWER KEY**

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American History! A letter consisting of 1,300 words, this declaration was from the American Colonists to their unfavored leader King George III. Approved by congress on July 4th, 1776, a letter of such emotion and disdain was considered disrespectful, as well as an act of treason. The 56 signers of the Declaration wanted to let the King know of the many complaints they had with their leader, and that the colonies were breaking away – or declaring independence. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, this letter to the king was the official beginning of the United States of America.

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4 The King has burnt our towns, ravaged our coasts, and is an unworthy head of this colonial nation. He has even taken fellow citizens and turned them against each other.	H

ANSWER IT!

Complete the following questions below and refer to the Declaration of Independence to find your answers.

- As explained in Section A, explain what the colonists are wanting to do? Explain the words **dissolve** and **separate** in your answer.
 - The colonists are wanting to separate from Great Britain and dissolve, or break away, from all political connection with Great Britain.
- Jefferson states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident". What are these evident or obvious "truths" as explained in Section B.
 - The truths mentioned are that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
- According to Section B, what is the source of government power, and when should a government be overthrown?
 - The source of government power is men, or the consent of the people.
 - The government should be overthrown when it becomes destructive and no longer for its people.
- In Section K, what powers does Jefferson think the colonies should have as free and independent states?
 - To 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.

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SUMMARIZE IT!

Similar to the **FIND IT!**, rewrite the following paragraphs in your own words to make them short and more easily understandable.

- Section A
We states unanimously agree that sometimes there comes a point, when our natural rights have been taken away, that political separation is necessary.
- Section I
Though we have been oppressed, we have been humble in all of our concerns. Yet the King continues to injure us, as he is a tyrant and unfit to rule free people.
- Section K
We, the United States of America, are officially free and independent. We are totally separated from all allegiance to the British Crown. We will now do everything on our own as free & independent states and will rely on divine providence.

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PRIMARY SOURCE ANSWER KEY



Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Extension Activities
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

name: _____

CREATE IT!

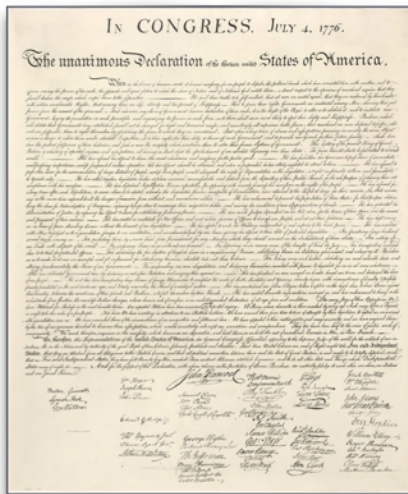
Choose one of the ideas below to creatively persuade other patriot colonists to favor the Declaration of Independence.

A

Illustrate a political cartoon that emphasizes and characterizes the beliefs to separate from Great Britain. Use ideas from the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE to persuade the King and others toward independence from Great Britain.

B

Imagine yourself as an American colonist and patriot of 1776. Write a letter to a designated family member or friend about your thoughts regarding the new DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Use arguments from the document to express your opinions, excitements, and concerns about this divisive document.



**BONUS
EXTENSION
ACTIVITIES**

Design a poster to help recruit and convince other colonists to support independence. Use ideas from Thomas Jefferson's DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE to persuade others toward independence from Great Britain.

Write a poem, song, or rap that reveals the basic ideas as stated in the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Make sure to include at least three arguments from the letter as you seek to persuade the listener toward freedom and independence from Great Britain.

FULL TEXT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE • page 3

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, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens to become the executioners of

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst our people, to excite them to turn their arms against their fellow Citizens, to have their Brethren murdered on every side, their States and Towns to be laid waste, and their Kingdoms to be covered with the dead.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress, and our Petitions have been answered by insult rather than by conciliation. When a long train of Abuses and Usurpations, which have drawn forth the Blood of our Brethren, have led us to declare that we have dissolved the Bands which have connected us with Great Britain, that we are now free, and independent States, 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 States, free, sovereign, and independent, we 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.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British Brethren with whom a new and firm Connection may be made by the friendly Intercourse of Amity, Commerce, and Consanguinity. We must, therefore, declare that we have severed all Connection with them, and that we have accepted of the Friendship, Commerce, and Consanguinity which may be made with us by other free and sovereign States.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and to the Honor of the most Holy Trinity, God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, declare that the thirteen united States of America 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 States, free, sovereign, and independent, we 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.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE • page 2

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their Offices, and for the continuance and the amount of their Salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers, to harass our People, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without our Consent.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a double Taxation, and to exercise the same Authority over us, as if we were independent States.

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in the States, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to encompass them all, in a single arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to encompass them all, in a single arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to encompass them all, in a single arbitrary Government.

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring us out of their Protection and Support;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring us out of their Protection and Support;

Primary Source

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

name:

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, 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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—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. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

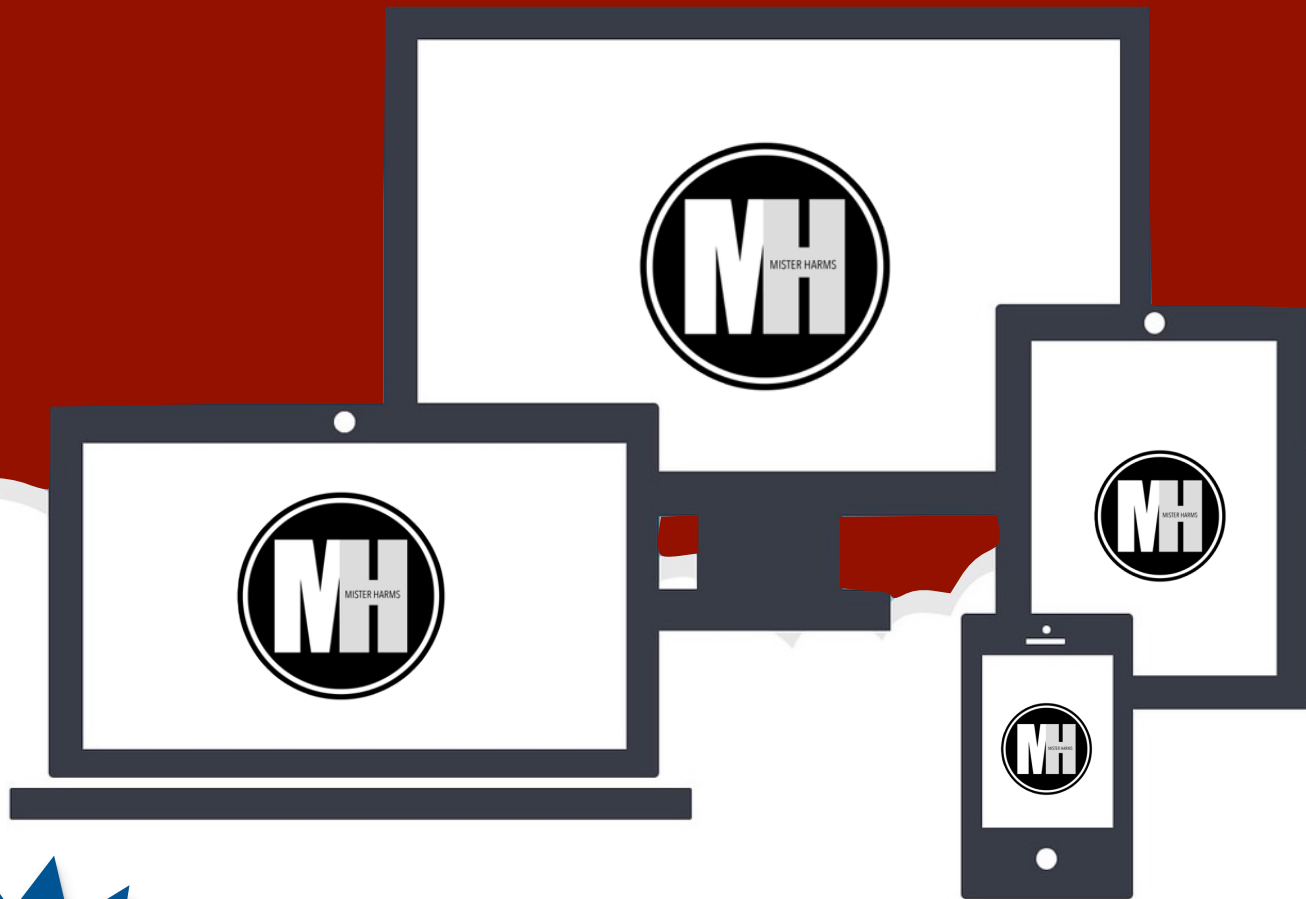
He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

DIVIDED INTO ELEVEN SECTIONS



- FOR 1:1 SCHOOLS -
- A TRIP TO THE LAB -
- IN CLASS, AT HOME, OR GROUP WORK -
- EMERGENCY SUB PLANS! -



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