

Heading:

Date:

Time & Setting: 1-155 pm (55 minutes)

Standard: HCPS 5.3.12- I can describe the major events of the Revolutionary War, including key battles, key alliances, and the roles played by key figures.

Objectives:

1. Students will explain why the Declaration of Independence was important to the American Colonists.

Learning Targets:

1. Using my own words, I can explain what the Declaration of Independence was.
2. I can explain why the Declaration of Independence was an important part of the American Colonists gaining their freedom.

Procedures:

Before:

1. Each homeroom pod has a social studies basket. Prior to the start of the lesson I will be putting all the materials needed for this lesson into their baskets.
2. At the start of the lesson, I will choose one person using the “number heads” poster and they will get their basket and be responsible for passing out the material throughout the lesson.

During:

5 min.	“Yesterday we learned that the Continental Congress met to discuss which plan of action they should follow that would work best for the American Colonists as well as show the British how serious they were about gaining their independence. Today we will be exploring the Declaration of Independence”
5 min.	I will project the actual Declaration of Independence text using the projector and ask a student to read the first paragraph. Listen to a portion of the Declaration of Independence https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uE-tqe0xsQ “Show me”, is this text easy (thumbs up), medium (thumbs to the side) or difficult (thumbs down) to read and understand? I will explain that this text was written in a different time period and in a very formal manner (because of its intended audience, the King) I will explain that our goal for the day is to translate the document into a language that a 5th grader can easily understand. Goal: Students will work in their pods to rewrite each section of the Declaration of Independence in their own words.
20 min.	Instructions for <i>“Dissecting the Declaration of Independence”</i> .

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The assigned reader will read the passage on the right aloud as their peers follow along on their paper.2. As a group they will review the vocabulary clues provided3. Students will discuss meaning of the passage4. Together, they will rewrite that section of the Declaration of Independence so that it makes sense to them <p>*The text is already divided to ensure that students are equally involved in the activity.</p>
3 min./ group 15 min.	<p><u>Share out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Each pod will be assigned a section. A speaker from that group will come up and explain how they rewrote that section of the Declaration of Independence, using Elmo.● Peers will “show” if they had the same thing or something different.● This will continue until all groups have shared out.● I will write up the rewritten Declaration of Independence as told by 5th graders and post it next to the original document.
2 min.	<p><u>Wrap up:</u></p> <p>“The Declaration of Independence is an important part of the American Revolution because, first, it specially lays out their goals for the nation, second, it directly informs the British of the problems they have with what the British king did to them, and third, it explains why they wanted to be free from the British.”</p> <p>“This declaration that they created is like us writing a formal letter to keep the school hours the same.”</p>

Assessment:

5 min.	<p><u>Exit Pass:</u></p> <p>Individually, students will answer the following questions: <i>*This gives me insights as to each student's level of understanding.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What reason(s) did the Founding Fathers give for their decision to write the Declaration of Independence?2. What beliefs did the Founding Fathers declare that the colonists held/believed in?3. What were some of the complaints they addressed in this document? What events or actions did they disapprove of?4. What did they declare at the end of their document?
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Materials

Declaration of Independence

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.

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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.

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 by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment 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 the Consent of our legislatures.

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 jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

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 benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

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 themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

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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 taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

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.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. 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. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

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 by 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, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

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Declaration of Independence Introduction and Preamble

Read each section of the Declaration of Independence on the left. Review the vocabulary definitions on the right. Then summarize what the section is stating below the boxes.

Section 1:(red)

<p>(1) <u>American Colonists</u> (2) <u>British citizens</u> (3) <u>their own independent government</u> (4) <u>urge, force</u></p>	<p>When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for <u>one people (1)</u> to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with <u>another (2)</u>, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the <u>separate and equal station(3)</u>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 <u>impel (4)</u> them to the separation.</p>
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Section 1 summary:

Section 2:(orange)

<p>(1) <u>true, not needing proof</u> (2) <u>provided</u> (3) <u>fundamental, not able to be taken away</u></p>	<p>We hold these truths to be <u>self-evident (1)</u>, that all men are created equal, that they are <u>endowed (2)</u> by their Creator with certain <u>unalienable (3)</u> rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.</p>
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Section 2 summary:

Section 3(yellow)

Heading:

Date:

<p><u>(1) obtaining, developing</u> <u>(2) constituents, citizens</u> <u>(3) change</u> <u>(4) do away with</u> <u>(5) creating the new government</u></p>	<p>That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, <u>deriving (1) their just powers from the consent of the governed (2)</u>. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to <u>alter (3) or to abolish (4) it</u>, and to institute new government, <u>laying its foundation (5) on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.</u></p>
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Section 3 summary:

Section 4:(green)

<p><u>(1) Sound judgment</u> <u>(2) passing briefly</u> <u>(3) accepting of hardships</u> <u>(4) improve their situation by changing their government</u></p>	<p><u>Prudence (1)</u>, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and <u>transient (2) causes</u>; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more <u>disposed to suffer (3)</u>, while evils are sufferable, than to <u>right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed (4)</u>.</p>
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Section 4 summary:

Section 5:(blue)

<p><u>(1) wrongful seizing, holding</u> <u>(2) expresses, demonstrates</u> <u>(3) dictatorship, cruel ruler-ship</u> <u>(4) rules, leadership</u></p>	<p>But when a long train of abuses and <u>usurpations (1)</u>, pursuing invariably the same object <u>evinces (2) a design to reduce them under absolute despotism (3)</u> it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new <u>guards (4) for</u></p>
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(5) endurance, tolerance

their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance (5) of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government.

Section 5 summary:

Heading:

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Exit Pass

Instructions: You will answer the following questions:

1. What reason(s) did the Founding Fathers give for their decision to write the Declaration of Independence?
2. What beliefs did the Founding Fathers declare that the colonists held/believed in?
3. What were some of the complaints they addressed in this document? What events or actions did they disapprove of?
4. What did they declare at the end of their document?